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Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th: 'Arafat To Visit Gaza, Jericho 1 Jul

TA2906122794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1205 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th by Moti Amir "a few minutes ago;" place not given—recorded, in English]

[Text] [Amir] Dr. Sha'th?

[Sha'th] Yes.

[Amir] You are full of surprises [Sha'th heard laughing]. You are always surprising me, always. I understand that you just spoke with....

[Sha'th, interrupting] I told everybody he [PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat] is coming at the end of the month and then I gave up, but he is doing it.

[Amir] So, I understand that you have just spoke with Chairman 'Arafat.

[Sha'th] That's right.

[Amir] And, what is the message?

[Sha'th] He is coming Friday [1 July].

[Amir] Directly to Gaza?

[Sha'th] Well, through Rafah.

[Amir] And, to stay how long?

[Sha'th] Well, maybe three or four days, and before he goes to Paris.

[Amir] So, he will visit Jericho or not?

[Sha'th] Yes, probably, most likely.

[Amir] So, it is the big day.

[Sha'th] Right.

[Amir] Are you coming with him Friday?

[Sha'th] Yes, yes.

[Amir] So you are going to attend the Romeo and Juliet play?

[Sha'th] No, I'm not.

[Amir] You will be with him?

[Sha'th] Yes, but I had apologized earlier because he was coming to Egypt and I was to meet President Mubarak with him tomorrow. So, I had apologized to Mrs. Aloni anyway.

[Amir] Sir, can you specify some details of the visit of Chairman 'Arafat?

[Sha'th] Well, nothing more than that. He's coming on Friday through Egypt, via Rafah. He is going to stay in Gaza most of the time. He will go to Jericho and come back to Gaza, and then he will leave out of Gaza to Egypt again.

[Amir] And then to Paris?

[Sha'th] Right.

[Amir] Thank you very much, sir.

[Sha'th] You are welcome.

Sha'th Meets With New Israeli Counterpart in Eretz

Sha'th Cited on Talks With Rothschild

JN2806131694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by Sophia 'Amarah from Gaza]

[Text] A meeting was held at the Eretz checkpoint today between Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, and Major General Dani Rothschild, his new Israeli counterpart.

Monte Carlo radio interviewed the member of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] immediately after the meeting.

[Begin recording] ['Amarah] Dr. Sha'th: What topics were discussed during the meeting?

[Sha'th] We discussed all outstanding issues. Moreover, we planned for future talks. I can say that today's meeting marked a real beginning for the second phase. It was also in preparation for the meeting between President 'Arafat on the one hand, and Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres on the other, due to be held in Paris on 7 July. It was an important meeting for the overall peace process. We discussed the issue of detainees and prisoners. I have informed Maj. Gen. Rothschild that we have chosen Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, a freed prisoner, to be the chairman of the Palestinian committee assigned the task of holding negotiations on Palestinian detainees and prisoners. All members of this committee will be freed detainees and prisoners. Additionally, we agreed on a good first step for the negotiating process. Nonetheless, I cannot divulge details. This is because I will go to President 'Arafat first to seek his approval of this prelude before it is announced.

['Amarah] Has a date been set for the resumption of talks?

[Sha'th] This is also contingent upon the venue and time, which have to be decided by President 'Arafat first.

['Amarah] Israeli Minister of Environmental Protection Yosi Sarid, who took part in the meeting, has said that he attended the meeting to find out how the agreement will be implemented on the ground, and also to find out

about the problems facing the agreement. He expressed his belief that there must be a rapid transfer of powers to the PNA in the occupied West Bank, with the exception of settlements, Jerusalem, and safe roads, as he put it. [end recording]

Further on Sha'th Remarks

JN2806114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid from Gaza Eretz checkpoint; from the "With the Midday Events" program]

[Text] The meeting Dr. Nabil Sha'th held with Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of the Defense Ministry activities in the territories, ended a short while ago. This meeting paves the way for the resumption of talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations on the implementation of self-rule in the rest of the West Bank. The most important topics discussed by the two were the release of Palestinian prisoners, the border crossing points, and the presence of Palestinian police at them. Dr. Nabil Sha'th spoke to us a short while ago:

[Begin Sha'th recording] I believe such meetings are very useful to declare and actually draw up plans for the next phase of negotiations on Palestinian authority in the West Bank. This required a comprehensive assessment of what was implemented thus far. This basically included the problem of prisoners and those released—a problem which is of concern to every Palestinian citizen. We also discussed the problem of the implementation of security, secure passage, border posts, international presence, and a quadruple committee meeting to discuss the problem of refugees. All these issues were discussed, in addition to an assessment of the economic situation, Palestinian labor force in Israel, and the easing of restrictions on Gaza and other Palestinian areas. We made a comprehensive assessment. Some solutions and the role of the security coordination committee and the civil coordination committee in solving these problems were discussed.

Regarding the negotiations, I cannot talk about any details because we have actually agreed to several points. We have to refer to President 'Arafat before any of them can be publicized. We have also agreed to prepare for President 'Arafat's meeting with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris on 7 July. Consequently, the beginning of negotiations and formation of committees and the Palestinian-Israeli summit were the subject of our planning. I will be satisfied with this because I cannot answer questions on the venue, time, and details because these all first require the approval of President 'Arafat. Naturally, General Rothschild will also consult with his leadership for the same reason. I think the meeting was positive and I hope it will herald the start of a new stage in the peace process. [end recording]

Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild said after the meeting that the Israeli and Palestinian sides will prepare for a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the one hand, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 7 July on the other. The start of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the implementation of self-rule in the rest of the West Bank will then be announced.

Rothschild Says No Negotiations Held

TA2806114594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Negotiations on autonomy issues not yet concluded, such as elections for the Palestinian council, got under way this morning at the Eretz checkpoint in the Gaza Strip. This is the first time the sides have met for formal talks since the introduction of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] The talks ended a short while ago. Major General Rothschild came out, and he said there would be another meeting next week. He said he had not engaged in negotiations proper, merely preparations, discussions of a wide range of subjects, problems that had cropped up, and things that had to be discussed.

I asked him if there was any truth in the report that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was unwilling to proceed to the next stage of the autonomy until the Palestinians had proven themselves in the area of civilian administration.

[Rothschild] Well, the fact that I am here, dealing with Dr. Nabil Sha'th on issues of the continuation of the peace process, shows you that Israel will do whatever is needed as far as the DOP [Declaration of Principles] is concerned.

[Katzenell] When the group convened this morning, Minister of the Environment Yosi Sarid was also present. His meeting with Nabil Sha'th was more like a reunion of old friends. When Sarid came out, he was asked by a reporter when Nabil Sha'th would be visiting Jerusalem:

[Sarid] There is no problem. Jerusalem is a free city, open city, and the only problem is to coordinate Dr. Nabil Sha'th's visit in Jerusalem. The problem is in coordination. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 28 June adds: "Dr. Nabil Sha'th says he advised Yasir 'Arafat to postpone his arrival in the autonomy territories because having visited Jericho himself, he realized that the local security arrangements are inadequate."

[The report adds that Gen. Rothschild said "that in his meeting with Sha'th, a decision was made to expedite the resumption of the negotiations on the transfer of civilian powers in Judaea and Samaria to the Palestinians."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 28 June carries a report on an interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, adding that "Baraq said that the implementation of the agreement in Gaza is making good progress." "In response to a question on whether Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahaq has ended his role as head of the Israeli delegation, Baraq said: Do not worry. Gen. Shahaq was not, is not, and will not be removed from this activity. Who will conduct the talks in Judaea and Samaria? we asked. The composition of the delegation and the way it will be managed will be determined by the government, along with the details as to what will be discussed and when. Gen. Shahaq completed an important circle in the signing of the agreement, and he will continue to follow and coordinate the activities of the various IDF branches vis-a-vis the Palestinians. On the practical, civilian level, contacts will be managed by Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories. On issues regarding the security committee, in which the Planning Branch takes part, the talks will be managed by Maj. Gen. 'Uzi Dayan."]

Sha'th Notes Discussion Topics With Israel's Sarid

NC2806204494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, will arrive in Cairo later tonight.

Dr. Sha'th launched a new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks with a meeting with Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid today. The Palestinian minister said that today's talks dealt with the steps taken to implement the self-rule agreement. These, he added, include the release of Palestinian detainees, the transfer of civilian authority to Palestinians, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, the holding of legislative elections before the end of September, and the date and venue of subsequent talks.

'Arafat Expected To Move to Jericho Mid-Jul

PM2806154494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p5

[Report by Rashid Khashanah: "Fatah Central Committee Urges 'Arafat To Move to Jericho"]

[Text] Tunis—An informed Palestinian source has told AL-HAYAH that members of Fatah's Central Committee tried hard to persuade President Yasir 'Arafat to move to the autonomy areas. These attempts were made during the Central Committee meeting in Tunis last Saturday [18 June]. The meeting was devoted to discussion of completion of the arrangements for transporting some of Fatah's cadres to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

The source said that 'Arafat did not give a specific answer to the members' request but they understood that he linked his decision to the results of the visit of Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), head of the PLO's Economic Department and economy minister in the Palestinian Authority, to the United States and his talks with World Bank officials on the aid the bank intends to give the Palestinian Authority.

A Fatah Central Committee member said that 'Arafat would probably move to Jericho around the middle of next month after his visit to Paris on 6 July to receive the Houphouet-Boigny peace prize along with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and after a clear and accurate picture emerges about the financial situation of the Palestinian Authority in the light of the meeting of the donor states in the second week of July.

'Arafat Orders Committee Report on Gaza, Jericho

NC2806124794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 28 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has issued a decree forming a committee chaired by Yahya Khalaf, head of the PLO's Cultural Department, to travel to the Palestinian autonomy region to learn about the situation there at first hand and prepare a report to be presented to the Palestinian leadership.

Yahya Khalaf stated that the Palestinian leadership will study this report in light of which it will make its final decision on who should return to Gaza and Jericho immediately and who should wait until special arrangements to return are made.

He said the committee, which includes Jamil Shihadah, secretary general of the Palestinian Teachers Union, and Rawhi Futuhi, secretary of the Palestinian popular organizations, will travel to Amman later today en route to Jericho and then the Gaza Strip to prepare the report and present it to the Palestinian leadership within three days.

'Arafat Closes Tunis Cultural Department Offices

NC2806130494 Cairo MENA in English 1245 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, June 28 (MENA)—The PLO Cultural Department here has been closed and its headquarters handed over to the owners. The closure came in implementation of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's decision to shut down all the organization's departments in the Tunisian capital except the political one.

Personnel will move to the self-rule area of Gaza and Jericho to start their mission there within the context of the Palestinian autonomy.

'Arafat Appoints Committee To Manage Nablus Affairs

LD2806180194 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] President 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO executive committee and chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, today decided that a provisional committee be set up to manage the municipality of Nablus, whose task will be to manage the administration of the municipality in accordance with the provisions of municipality laws and regulations, and to make preparations for municipal elections in the town. The work of the committee will last one year during which the elections will be held. Here are the names of the brother members of the provisional committees: lawyer Ghassan Walid al-Shak'a, Dr. Hatim Jamil Kamal, engineer Hani Tawfiq 'Arafat, engineer Adnan, Umar al-Dirhalli, Azzam Muhammad Sa'id al-Alul, Samir Sadiq Qadri, engineer Abbas Muhammad Hasan Jabir, agricultural engineer 'Amid Wahid al-Masri, Ibrahim Sa'id Shikha, Khaldun Bakr 'Abd al-Haq, Dr. Amin Haddad, Muhammad Yusif Shahin, engineer Mufid Adil Nabulsi, Asim Ghalib Salim, Salih Rushdi 'Abd al-Hadi, and brother Saliq Nasuh Kan'an.

'Arafat Reportedly To Form Human Rights Body

NC2806143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 28 Jun (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is currently studying a proposal to form a Palestinian human rights committee that is independent of the Palestinian Authority and is not affected by internal or external factors.

These sources said that an internal committee has been formed, comprising of the following members: Salwa Abu-Khadr, secretary general of the Palestinian Women's Union; Nabil Ramlawi, PLO ambassador to Switzerland; Yahya Yakhluf, director general of the PLO Cultural Department; Jamil Shihadah, secretary general of the Palestinian Teachers' Union; Father Ibrahim 'Ayyad, member of the Palestine National Council; and Mrs. Jamilah Saydam, alias Umm Sabri, official responsible for external relations in the Women's Union.

The sources pointed out that the duty of this committee will be to propose a list of the persons who will then make up the Palestinian human rights committee.

Informed Palestinian sources feel that 'Arafat's intention to form this committee is to confront the committee formed by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the official spokeswoman for the previous negotiating Palestinian delegations. She rejected her appointment by 'Arafat to the Palestinian National Authority and declared that she will continue her activities through the committee she has formed to defend Palestinian human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Official Queried on Washington Talks With Donors

JN2806182994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with donor countries and the World Bank in Washington, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, have you managed to convince U.S. and World Bank officials to disburse the aid to cover the Palestinian budget deficit?

['Abdallah] I believe the discussions over the past days have made substantial progress in the effort to raise funds and turn pledges into payments so that the Palestinian authority will be able to function normally.

[Mu'addi] Has an agreement been reached on the mechanism of disbursing aid for the self-rule administration?

['Abdallah] The mechanisms were already agreed on. There is the mechanism of direct payment for the PLO and the mechanism of payment through the Johan Holst peace fund.

[Mu'addi] What are the demands or reservations that U.S. and World Bank officials made regarding the disbursement of financial aid for the Palestinians?

['Abdallah] There is nothing new in this regard. The Palestinian side has been criticized for the delay in activating financial and tax collecting offices.

[Mu'addi] Then what are the obstacles hampering the immediate disbursement of aid to the Palestinians?

['Abdallah] Aid disbursement has already started. I do not believe that there will be a problem. The problem is that the aid is still less than the needs. Up to this moment, a major portion of the deficit in the Palestinian budget is still uncovered. The other side of the problem is that the payments must be made on time so that the Palestinian authority will not face a liquidity problem.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, does the date of Yasir 'Arafat's arrival depend on the disbursement of financial aid for the Palestinians?

['Abdallah] In fact, I have no accurate information about this issue. However, it is known that for the Palestinian authority to be able to perform its duties, the required funds must be made available and paid on time. This problem is being resolved. The next few weeks will witness activities that will resolve this problem?

[Mu'addi] Dr. Samir 'Abdallah in Washington, thank you very much.

['Abdallah] Not at all.

'Usfur Says Israel Putting Obstacles Before PNA

NC2806154394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Gaza, 28 Jun (MENA)—Hasan 'Usfur, official in charge of directing negotiations in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has accused Israel of trying to implement the Cairo agreement signed by the two sides on 4 May in a way that is not compatible with its spirit and of trying to put obstacles before the PNA.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, 'Usfur, who is a member of the Palestinian delegation now negotiating in the Palestinian-Israeli security committee, said that Israel is trying to exploit the security aspect in order to stop or impede the Palestinians' movement on the pretext of "security issues."

He added: We regard these practices by the Israeli side as an attempt to depict the PNA as impotent and incapable of being a strong authority and therefore inciting the Palestinians against the PNA.

He noted that the Israeli side's objective is to put the Palestinian side in a weak position when future negotiations start between the two sides.

'Usfur also accused the Israeli side of blatantly violating the Cairo agreement on a number of security matters. He said the Israeli side sometimes stops the Palestinians from moving around in the areas under its control or in the areas where they have security privileges. He added that the Israeli side is doing this in a way that completely violates the agreement. He added that the Israeli side also carries out actions that annoy the Palestinian citizens in the Jericho area, such as complicating traffic along the Jericho-al'Awjah road, which belongs to the self-rule authority, the Palestinians' travel from the West Bank to Jericho and vice versa, and not yet completing the security passageway between the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

He noted that Israel has come up with a concept that contradicts the agreement. He said that the Palestinian side was surprised by this behavior because it realizes that it is waging a new battle to build the Palestinian Authority under the shadow of political complications and the complications of the agreement itself.

Hasan 'Usfur said: We believe that building the National Authority is an historic challenge for the Palestinian people and we fully realize that Israel will not be a peaceful state that will give the Palestinians the opportunity to build its own developed and civilized entity.

He expressed his belief that there are mentalities inside Israel that believe that Israel is the only advanced country in the region and the only country that has the proper human conditions and therefore it tries to put obstacles before the future evolvement of the Palestinian entity.

Regarding the issue of the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, 'Usfur said that the Israeli side was not sincere when it came to implementing the recorded or unrecorded agreements between the two sides. He added: Discussion of this issue began with the Oslo negotiations and there were more than one Israeli promise to solve it. It was also discussed during the Taba and Cairo negotiations. The Israelis tried to restrict the release of some detainees. We understood some of these restrictions but they, regrettably, used this understanding to complicate the release of the detainees.

Hasan 'Usfur said that the Israeli side has interpreted some aspects of the Cairo agreement as it pleases. It is exploiting the fact that the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] needs to have the Palestinian prisoners released and the difficult conditions the prisoners live under in prison.

He clarified that as a result of this, Israel began to set new conditions on the prisoner-release process. Some of these conditions are the pledges the prisoners sign before their release, and the place they are taken to after they are released. None of these conditions were stipulated in the agreement.

'Usfur noted that currently there are attempts to restore dialogue and negotiate over this issue.

He said that the arrival of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to the PNA area is encountering some difficulties as a result of the complications Israel is creating, particularly since they are complications of a political nature.

In his interview with MENA, Hasan 'Usfur said that the Palestinian side believes the Cairo agreement is the first stage to finding a final solution. We were hoping that this stage would mark the beginning of the end of a long era between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

He said that upon assuming authority in the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian side worked on providing the necessary conditions to keep the commitments that were stipulated in the recent Cairo agreement.

He expressed his belief that important progress was made in a record time period, especially in the security field. The Palestinian side succeeded in asserting the prestige of the Palestinian security authority. This closed the door before all wagers that the PNA will not be able to succeed easily, since there will be strong opposition to the agreement.

He said that there were some people who believed that a civil war will erupt. But what has happened is the exact opposite. The PNA was given a very warm welcome and the people responded positively to it. Everyone realized that there is only one law: the law of the Palestinian Authority.

'Source' Denies 'Abbas Intention To Quit Fatah

PM2806115894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jun 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Source Close to Abu-Mazin Denies He Intends To Resign From Fatah"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—While it has been confirmed that Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir) has submitted his resignation from the Mobilization and Organization Department in Fatah and from his other political and movement duties, Fatah sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) is in severe disagreement with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat because of his hesitation over returning to Gaza and Jericho and offering guarantees to the World Bank and the donor states to facilitate the provision of grants and aid—which prompted some people to talk about the possibility of Abu-Mazin's resigning his posts. But an authoritative source in the office of Abu-Mazin, head of the PLO Pan-Arab and International Relations, has stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "there is no truth in recent reports of Abu-Mazin's intention to quit political and organization action or to resign from Fatah."

The source added that Abu-Mazin's explaining the reasons that prompted Abu-Mahir to resign and to quit political and movement action does not mean "a similarity in their positions." The source vehemently denied that there is any coordination between Abu-Mahir and Abu-Mazin with regard to the resignation issue.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Abu-Mazin and Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) [head of the PLO Political Department] succeeded the day before yesterday in persuading Abu-Mahir to abandon his seclusion and resume his daily work in his office. Cadres from the Mobilization and Organization Department have contacted Abu-Mahir at his home, urging him to abandon his resignation "because he is needed in order not to perpetuate autocracy in the movement."

Elsewhere, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a misunderstanding arose yesterday between 'Arafat and Abu-al-Lutf in front of European Union ambassadors over the current balance of the Scandinavian states' aid fund for the Palestinian people—the fund named after the late Norwegian Foreign Minister (Jorgen) Holst. Reports say that 'Arafat put the figure at $53 million, while Abu-al-Lutf put it at $60 million. This conflict in the figures aroused the European ambassadors' suspicions about the fate of the $7 million, the difference between the two figures.

PLO Faction Reaffirms Lack of Commitment to Accord

TA2806143494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jun 94 p 23

[By Amin Abu-Wardah]

[Text] Nabulus—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF], a PLO faction, has reaffirmed its lack of commitment to the Gaza-Jericho accord and all that it construes despite the fact that the ALF has remained within the PLO's framework. The ALF stated that it will not follow a specific policy nor abandon any form of "struggle" while maintaining its freedom to determine its policy according to the requirements that fulfill the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations.

A statement issued by the ALF—led by Abu-al-'Abbas—and distributed in Nabulus said that the ALF will deal with any institution that will be established through the new political reality if it becomes clear that this institution serves the interest of Palestinian society and is committed to the Palestinian people's causes, be that the Palestinian police force or other institutions whose positive role in improving the social situation becomes evident.

FIDA on Delay in 'Arafat Arrival in Autonomy Area

TA2806135194 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Jun 94 p 23

[Text] Jerusalem, QUDS PRESS—A Palestinian party participating in the Palestinian self-rule authority council has criticized PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's delay in coming to the self-rule areas in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

A statement by the Palestinian Democratic Union, FIDA, said that this delay, whatever its justification or reason, causes harmful effects on the unity of the Palestinian leadership's performance in various spheres and on the clarity of the plan of action. It also paralyzes the capacity of members of the national authority in carrying out their responsibilities as a collective team.

The party hinted at withdrawing from the authority and pointed out that "its support for and continued participation in the authority depends on the its possession of a comprehensive national plan to pursue the battle of independence; on the realization of adequate participation, justice, and equality; and on the granting of freedom." The statement also called for accelerating the completion of the authority's domain.

The party is currently represented in the authority council by its secretary general, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who holds the education and arts portfolio, and Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, who holds the youth and sport portfolio.

Reaction to Shamgar Commission Report Continues

Orient House Expresses 'Regret'

TA2806171794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Jun 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] Jerusalem—Orient House [PLO headquarters in Jerusalem] issued a statement on the Shamgar Commission report and the omitted facts. The statement says:

The Israeli Shamgar Commission's report places a large question mark on the real aim for which this commission was set up and whether the commission was indeed serious in finding out the real causes behind the Hebron massacre or if it was just an attempt to exonerate the Israeli occupation authorities from their responsibility.

Through an elaborate examination of the report it becomes clear, with utmost regret, that it is tantamount to an elegantly polished facade that conceals a horrible feature. The report, in its results, aims, and recommendations has sought to affirm and reinforce the objective circumstances that led to the massacre for which it held a single person responsible, without paying attention to the causes and factors that produced this killer and which every day are producing scores of his ilk, who are seething with resentment against defenseless Palestinians.

It is worth noting that such a repugnant and bloody massacre took place in a sacred site, resulting in scores of victims, without a single Israeli military or political official being called to justice, especially as numerous pieces of evidence and statements had pointed an accusing finger at more than an Israeli party whether directly or indirectly involved in this massacre.

The report's recommendations are procedural, based on reinforcing the status quo with all its gravity. They do not rise to the level of analyzing the results and drawing conclusions from this massacre and the real reasons that led to it; namely, the settlers' presence in the heart of Hebron and the elements of provocation and instability which this presence represents, especially as thousands of settlers serve in the Israeli Army and implement their objectives within sight and earshot of their commanders. In addition, their work in various official Israeli agencies allows them to obtain the required information and the necessary weapons for perpetrating these massacres against the Palestinian people's sons.

The report's results, apart from clearing Israel--as an occupying authority—of responsibility for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, bestowed legitimacy on the occupation's measures inside the mosque and on the facts established forcibly by Israel there. These results were established based on measures that are basically null and void and which contravene international law and the Geneva Conventions.

Out of concern for the rights, safety, and security of our people, we stress that the report ignored the roots of the problem, which is the Jewish settlement presence in the heart of Hebron, and disregarded the daily attacks by armed settlers against the citizens of the town. This constitutes a time bomb of dire consequences for which the occupation authorities bear full responsibility.

While expressing our regret over the results and recommendations contained in the Shamgar Commission report and its disregard of all these facts, we call on the United Nations and its international institutions to refute this report and what it entails and to consider it merely as an attempt to contain the situation, exonerate the occupation from the Hebron massacre before public opinion, and cover up its crimes against the defenseless Palestinian people.

PNC Criticizes Report

NC2806140394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent envoy to the Arab League, stated that the Israeli authorities banned him from entering the Palestinian self-rule areas because he is the Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary general.

In statements he made today, he said that the PLO asked that 110 PNC members be allowed to enter the self-rule areas but Israel agreed to allow only 83 members and refused to let the others enter these areas.

Commenting on the report issued by the Israeli commission that investigated the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which laid the blame fully on the Jewish settler, Subayh said: There is nothing odd in having such a report that explains the massacre, which claimed the lives of more than 70 worshipers last Ramadan, as an individual act. He added that the Palestinian people is used to such reports and positions on massacres perpetrated by Israeli soldiers.

Muhammad Subayh went on to say: Israeli soldiers and police should have been tried and the committee investigating the al-Ibrahimi Mosque should have recommended the expulsion of settlers from the Palestinian urban area and the disarmament of Jewish settlers.

The Palestinian envoy stressed that security during the transitional period in the Palestinian self-rule areas following the agreements reached in Oslo and Cairo has become the responsibility of the Palestinian police. He noted that the Israeli Government is hesitant and not taking a firm stand against the extremist elements in the Israeli army.

Editorials View Report Results

TA2806194994

[Editorial Report] The East Jerusalem dailies AL-QUDS and AL-NAHAR and the weekly AL-MANAR on 27 June carry editorials on the Shamgar Commission report dealing with the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

An editorial in Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic on page 11 entitled "A Report That Contained Nothing New" notes: "It is not surprising that the Palestinians received the report, released yesterday, by the Shamgar Commission set up by Israel to investigate the circumstances of the bloody and horrifying massacre at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque with condemnation and denunciation." The paper adds: "This commission ignored the

fact that the horrible massacre came as a result of the policy of encouragement and tolerance pursued by the occupation authorities in dealing with the settlers, their crimes, and their attacks against defenseless Palestinians about which the Palestinian side had always warned. It also ignored the issue of the settlement and arming the settlers as a main cause for the massacre." The paper deems the commission's recommendation to restrict the introduction of weapons into the mosque as inadequate. It asks: "When there is more than one Goldstein among armed settlers, what guarantee is there that another armed settler will not commit another massacre in another place?" The editorial decries the fact that no Israeli official has been called to justice despite such a horrible massacre. It concludes: "At any rate, the above-mentioned commission report affirms the Palestinian conviction that, from the outset, the formation of this commission was aimed at exonerating Israel from its responsibility and absorbing the effects of the massacre, especially in the international arena. From this premise, the commission report was not surprising to us, nor did it add anything new to what we had been accustomed to in this regard."

In an editorial on pages 3 and 7 entitled "The Shamgar Report and the Omitted Facts," Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic says that "the commission's report should have explained that in Hebron and Qiryat Arba' there is fertile ground for extremists and that more Goldsteins are waiting for an opportunity to commit similar massacres against the defenseless and innocent Palestinian people, as Rabin himself admitted yesterday. We hoped that the report would recommend the need to put an end to those bloodthirsty extremists." After noting that the report called on the Israeli Government to separate Muslims and Jews in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, the paper asks: "Why did the commission not have the courage to sanction the separation of Muslims and Jews in the city by removing the Jews from there?

"With all due respect to the commission members, the report was bland in color and content, as if the objective was not to point an accusing finger or offend the emotions of any party." In conclusion, the paper says the Palestinians had hoped that the commission report would be a verdict on the settler terrorism, "but it was disappointing and created bitterness and scorn among our people."

Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic on page 1 carries an editorial entitled "The Shamgar Report and Disregard of the Facts." This paper, too, says that the Shamgar Commission report was "disappointing" and "ignored many of the facts which this commission should have taken into account." The editorial notes that "the Israeli Government and all the political and security leaders welcomed this report because it did not hold any of them responsible. It placed the responsibility for this hideous crime on Barukh Goldstein alone." The paper accuses the Israeli Government of ignoring the Palestinians' complaints against the settlers and says that "settlements are time bombs that might explode at any moment, and the Shamgar Commission failed to mention these settlements in its report which filled more than 300 pages." After asserting that Goldstein alone did not commit the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, the editorial says: "While rejecting this report which has been welcomed by all the Israeli leadership, we emphasize that the causes which led Goldstein and his partners to commit their crime are still there."

First Commercial Strike Announced in Jericho

TA2706174094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] A general commercial strike was announced in Jericho today, and most of the city's stores remained closed. The strike was called to protest the continued incarceration of Palestinians in Israeli prisons. The Jericho strike is the first since the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] handed over the area to the Palestinian police.

Also today, Jericho was re-opened to tourists.

Algeria

Interior Minister Deplores Triumph of Extremism

LD2806231994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Excerpt] In Bordj Bou Arreridj Province, Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif, minister of interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform, attended the official installation of the governor today. He delivered a speech in which he outlined the government program in the transitional period. Over to Nourredine Daroui from Bordj Bou Arreridj:

[Daroui] In his meeting with officials and members of the public, the minister talked about the internal situation in the country in general.

[Begin Cherif recording] Regrettably, we notice that the spirit of factionalism and extremism has triumphed over wisdom and clear-sightedness. All Algerians have to overcome these beliefs that are so incompatible with the national interest and the spirit of fraternity and brotherliness which has enabled us, through the centuries, to preserve our personality with all its aspects. This is the spirit which led to the uprising of November [1954] and its intrinsic significance. [end recording]

[Daroui] The interior minister also talked about the importance and objectives of the transitional period in all fields within the framework of action aimed at bringing the country out of the stifling crisis it is going through. He said:

[Begin Cherif recording] The world is now watching, with astonishment, our acute disagreements and our confrontations and it is interfering in our affairs by supporting parties or deviant groups. Local and then legislative elections were held and democracy was nearly wiped out because some people regard it as blasphemy, while others see it as a means to remove others. Thus, we are now going through a transitional period which we hope will take us, once and for all, out of the contradictions and conflicts and lead us toward a bright future under democracy, the democracy which respects the country's ideals. [end recording]

[Daroui] Regarding the real perspectives for the future, the interior minister pointed out that the best alternative is action on the ground. [passage omitted]

Correction to Talks End; Statement Released

LD2706192694

The following correction pertains to the item headlined: "Talks End; Statement Released," published in the 27 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 14:

First column on page 15, fifth paragraph, second bulleted item, make read: ...dinars to every child attending school from the beginning.... (clearing indistinct passage)

Egypt

Yemen's Salih Telephones Mubarak on Crisis

NC2806152694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this afternoon from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. They reviewed the latest developments of the Yemeni crisis.

During the telephone conversation, President Mubarak affirmed the importance of stopping the bloodshed to provide an opportunity for resolving the crisis and preserving the supreme interests of the Yemeni people.

Mubarak Sends Message to Sanaa

NC2806192594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent Ambassador Badr Hamman, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs, to Sanaa to deliver an urgent message to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concerning the situation in Yemen.

This moves falls within the context of efforts being made to stop the fighting that rages there.

Al-Sharif Denies Report on Aden Arms Shipment

NC2806144894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif denied press reports that an Egyptian ship carrying Saudi weapons to Aden was stopped in the Red Sea before reaching its destination.

In a statement made today, al-Sharif said: No Egyptian ship has been stopped either in the Red Sea or in the Mediterranean Sea. He stressed that this report is entirely baseless and contradicts Egypt's firm and principled stand on the Yemeni problem. He said that Egypt believes the need to immediately stop the fighting and to move to the dialogue table. He added that Egypt also believes that it is not right to side with one party against the other in this problem.

Official: No Arms Shipped to Rwandan Government

NC2806121494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister for African affairs, has again denied that Egypt supplied the Rwandan Government with arms.

Responding to claims by the Rwandan Patriotic Front that Egypt is providing the government with weapons

and that Egypt has endorsed a Security Council resolution to send troops to Rwanda to appease France, Rif'at made a statement today affirming that Egypt favors no side to the conflict in Rwanda.

He said there is a question mark over the Rwandan Patriotic Front's insistence on accusing Egypt of providing the government there with weapons despite Egypt's assertion that it is not.

He added that Egypt supported Security Council Resolution 929 on the intervention of a UN force with a humanitarian task to protect the refugees and the displaced in Rwanda relying on practical and objective considerations, primarily Egypt's desire to ensure protection and security for endangered civilians with emphasis on the humanitarian nature of the mission. [passage omitted]

Damascus Declaration Ministers To Meet 5 Jul

NC2806152794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that during the contacts held among the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries an agreement was reached to convene a new round of meetings for the Declaration countries' foreign ministers on 5 July 1994 in Kuwait. The foreign ministers will discuss issues of interest to the Arab nation, led by developments in Yemen and how to end the fighting there. The ministers will also discuss how to bolster cooperation in the fields stipulated by the Declaration.

Foreign Minister Musa also commented on the European Union's [EU] Corfu summit statement. In particular, he noted the welcome and support expressed in the statement for the contacts currently being held with Egypt to find a new agreement between Egypt and the EU. He said the EU's agreement was based on talks Egypt held with the EU foreign ministers during the meetings of the Egyptian-European Cooperation Council in Brussels last month. This decision is seen as support for cooperation between Egypt and the EU.

Security Thwarts 'Terrorist' Infiltration

NC2806193994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Security organs have thwarted a terrorist scheme planned abroad to carry out sabotage activities against some installations and assassinate a number of personalities in Egypt. The execution of this plan was entrusted to some terrorists who were trained in foreign countries. The State Security Investigations' Bureau succeeded in arresting some members who were attempting to infiltrate through an Egyptian port. It seized all their documents and files, as well as the passports the defendants used in their travels to numerous countries.

A ranking security source told AL-AHRAM correspondent Ahmad Musa that confessions by the terrorist group revealed that their leadership, which has fled abroad, dispatched them inside the country after the successful security blows dealt to terrorist leaders 'Awad Siyam and Tal'at Yasin Hammam. The members of this group were asked to convey very detailed instructions to the terrorist leaders' aides inside, as well as to transfer funds. These funds were to be used to carry out terrorist operations to make the terrorist presence in the arena known.

Six 'Terrorists' Caught Arriving From Pakistan

NC2906090594 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari]

[Text] In a new strike reflecting the security authorities' alert, a sabotage cell of six terrorists coming from Pakistan was arrested as its members tried to infiltrate the country through Cairo Airport using forged passports.

A senior security source told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that preliminary investigations with cell members revealed that terrorist leaders abroad sought to revive terrorist activity in Egypt after the security agencies destroyed clandestine terrorist organizations and eliminated their masterminds, primarily the al-Jihad Organization.

The source added that the sabotage cell members had arrived to regroup the terrorists and resume attacks on important popular sites to cause the greatest possible damage and prove to people at home and abroad that they still exist.

The source affirmed that $6,000 and sketches of targeted installations were seized with the group in addition to several bank account numbers to which the necessary funds are transferred from abroad.

Lawyers Decide To End Hunger Strike

NC2806175094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—Cairo Lawyers Association Chairman 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammmad praised yesterday's decision by the Public Prosecution Office to release all the lawyers held in detention since 17 May following the demonstration at the Lawyers Association's premises.

Speaking at a news conference today, 'Abd-al-'Aziz said that he and the rest of his colleagues who were on a hunger strike decided to end their hunger strike immediately after the release of the detained lawyers was announced.

'Abd-al-'Aziz said that the competent authorities showed particular sympathy to the demands of the hunger strikers, chief of which was the release of all the lawyers arrested following the demonstration.

Prominent Islamic Lawyer Detained

NC2806180394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution today decided to detain Lawyer Muntassir al-Zayyat for 15 days of interrogation under the supervision of the Prosecution.

The security department had referred al-Zayyat to the State Security Prosecution for interrogation about charges that he belongs to an extremist religious group.

Al-Zayyat is considered one of the most prominent lawyers defending the extremist Islamic groups in Egypt.

Report Says 17 Wounds Found on Lawyer's Body

NC2806185294 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (AFP) - Doctors found 17 wounds on the body of a lawyer who died in police custody here, the bar association said Tuesday [28 June].

'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad, the association's head in Cairo, told reporters that national bar association chief Ahmad al-Khawajah was informed of the medical report's contents by the state prosecutor. Muhammad said the report into the death of Islamic lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani mentioned "17 injury marks on various parts of the victim's body," without giving more details.

The lawyers' association launched a protest campaign after Madani's death in police custody on April 17, charging that he died under torture. The interior ministry said an asthma attack was to blame.

According to the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights a total of 37 lawyers were arrested during the campaign, which included a rally brutally stopped by police on May 17. Some 28 out of the 37 have been freed up to now, the group said.

A group of 33 lawyers decided last week to go on hunger strike demanding the release of the lawyers and the publication of the findings into Madani's death. Muhammad said 27 of the hunger strikers had now ended their protest deeming that the authorities had "met their demands."

But some of their colleagues had accused them of giving in.

'Extremists' Repent in Asyut Governorate

NC2806154494 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] The number of extremists who have recently repented in Asyut Governorate is 170 members.

This statement was made by Asyut Governor Major General Samih al-Sa'id yesterday. He said that these repentant extremists turned themselves in to the security organs with the help of the popular leaderships in the Governorate of Asyut.

The Asyut governor added that the repentance of these extremists comes within the framework of returning to the path of righteousness and understanding of the true religious teachings after it became clear to them that what they had previously thought were religious ideas were actually corrupt and wrong.

AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Tenders Resignation

NC2806201094 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Jun 94 p 10

[Report by Sulayman 'Abd-al-'Azim]

[Text] In a sudden development within the Liberal Party, Wahid Ghazi, chief editor of the weekly edition of AL-AHRAR last Saturday [18 June] tendered his resignation to Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad. Murad's secretary refused to acknowledge official receipt of the resignation, forcing Ghazi to send it with a bailiff on Sunday morning to the party, but party officials also refused to acknowledge receipt of the resignation.

Having failed to get either the party leader, or the party itself, to recognize his resignation, Ghazi again asked a bailiff from the Public Prosecution Office to hand the resignation either to the party leader or the party's secretariat.

AL-MUSAWWAR has learned that Ghazi's resignation is due to his disapproval of the party's recent shift from liberal to Nasirist and fundamentalist policies. Ghazi says that the change is unprecedented and contradicts the party's program.

Party leader Murad this week ordered the discontinuation of the weekly edition of AL-AHRAR, the newspaper for which Ghazi served as chief editor for the past 14 years.

Murad also appointed Ghazi as chief editor of the daily [as published] newspaper AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH. It is worth noting that AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH basically functions as a vehicle for legal announcements.

Speaking to AL-MUSAWWAR, Ghazi said: We respect the Nasirists and anyone whose political views vary with ours. But we are against sudden changes of the party's program and orientation about which party members are not consulted. It is unacceptable for one person to make party members alter their principles and doctrine against their will. Such actions violate the law of political parties.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Rejects New Sanctions

LD2806115094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0925 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Jun—(JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] has underlined that the proposal to put on trial the alleged defendants in the so-called Lockerbie case at the International Court of Justice is not a Libyan proposal. Rather, it was a suggestion put forward by international legal quarters. He explained that the proposal was endorsed by the Arab League and the OAU.

During a press conference held yesterday at the end of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, the brother leader said that this proposal represents the only solution to this issue. He pointed out that this proposal is convincing and would satisfy all the concerned parties [words indistinct].

The leader added that following its adoption by the Arab League and the OAU, this proposal is expected to be submitted to the UN Security Council [UNSC] in the form of a draft resolution for endorsement. The leader indicated that if the world is searching for a solution, the way is now open and clear following the surfacing of irrefutable evidence which confirms that there were other parties which admitted carrying out this act. He pointed to the recent confession of the Palestinian Sha'ban before a Lebanese court. These confessions sent shock waves through the UNSC and international public opinion regarding the justifications for maintaining sanctions against one country with no reason.

The brother leader stressed that the confessions of the Palestinian citizen Sha'ban before the Lebanese court put the UNSC in a dilemma, when he admitted carrying out this act. Sha'ban said: "This is a sacred conflict between us and Zionism and imperialism. I carried out this act for the sake of my cause and the Arab cause." This frank admission caused the UNSC to have strong doubts that Libya was not the only accused side, but there were other parties that have now become accused of his act.

In the press conference he held yesterday, the brother leader pointed out that the team of lawyers for the two Libyan suspects, which is composed of Libyan and foreign lawyers including Americans, and the Union of Arab Lawyers, are following up the confessions of the Palestinian citizen Yusuf Sha'ban.

The brother leader pointed out also that Libya was accused in the past of blowing up the Berlin club, which was used as a pretext to carry out an aggression against it in April 1986. Then it was confirmed afterward that Libya was innocent of those accusations. The innocence of the person accused of carrying out the explosion at the club on behalf of Libya was declared by the issuance of a legal verdict stipulating his innocence.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed in the press conference that if it were not for the interests of European states in Libya, with companies, investments and Libyan projects on Western companies are based, the stance would have been stronger, particularly during the days of Bush and Reagan.

Libya is [word indistinct] strategic projects and European [word indistinct] are needed to implement them. If there were no European companies, other companies from China, India, Malaysia, or North Korea would carry out those projects.

The brother leader said that it is in the interest of Western states to adopt the proposal of the Arab League to try the two suspects at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice, particularly since they cast doubts on whether Libya would hand over [the two suspects] to a neutral court or a neutral venue. To confirm to them that their doubts are unfounded, we have held consultations with Egypt about the transfer of the two suspects to Egypt, so that they become at its disposal, and when the trial is held, Egypt will guarantee their arrival at the venue scheduled for their trial, which is other than America and Britain, and Egypt has agreed to this.

[Words indistinct] stressed the impossibility of handing over the two suspects to the United States or Britain because the two suspects refused to go to these two states voluntarily and said that those two states are staging a campaign against us and are hostile to us. Just as they cast doubts on Libyan justice, we cast doubts on British and American justice when it on their land.

The brother leader pointed out that the proposal regarding the venue of the trial of the two suspects will be decided at the UNSC through regional organizations which are the Arab League, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement which can submit a project to be adopted by the UNSC.

In reply to a question about the possibility of tightening the unjust measures against the Great Jamahiriyah, the brother leader underlined that these measures were unjustified since sanctions were imposed against Libya as if it were accused. Libya suffered from these sanctions before it was even accused; he indicated that this is a very important point.

He stated that Libya has lost a great deal because it was accused. If Libya was accused from the beginning it would not have paid a greater price than the one it is paying now as result of this embargo. He stressed that there is no longer any justification for any further escalation in this issue. He stressed that if they decide to boycott Libyan oil, they will be the losers at the end of the day; and that the oil embargo was an unhuman and decadent method. During the press conference held yesterday, the brother leader said that if the West boycotts Libyan oil, this act would represent the most barbaric and decadent act. Even if they threaten to use

this method, this would make the West decadent and inhuman; this would in effect be an act aimed at starving people as they did in Iraq.

The brother leader said it is acceptable to boycott Libya diplomatically and impose an armed and transport embargo etc. As for starving the Libyan people, this is a barbaric and decadent act. This proves that the West is uncivilized because it has realized that the Libyan oil is the only source for this people. This is a threat against humanity because it is a threat to annihilate a people.

The brother leader indicated that the Libyan people took to the streets to declare its acceptance of the challenge, and announce its readiness to die because of starvation rather than submit and give in to anybody.

The brother leader stated that the unjust measures imposed against Libya have not only caused suffering for the Libyan people, but also for all of Libya's neighboring states; and Arab nationals are suffering a great deal because of this embargo. He expressed his regret about seeing a president of a state travel by plane, then being forced to walk across the borders onto another country.

During the press conference held at the conclusion of President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Great Jamahiriyah yesterday, the brother leader stressed that relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt are following the right path. Contacts will be direct and continuous between the two countries to boost these relations in the interest of the one Arab people in both countries.

Regarding the disappearance of Mansur al-Kikhya, the brother leader indicated that the appropriate apparatus in both Libya and Egypt are cooperating to uncover the ambiguity that surrounds this matter. He stated that the fingers of accusation have confirmed the involvement of U.S. intelligence services and Libyan spies who are cooperating with these services, to settle some scores among them. He underscored that this act carried out by these spies with the cooperation of U.S. intelligence services was not the first one of its kind, as they have in the past liquidated Libyan nationals who worked in the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Rome. Then they tried to accuse Libya of having killed them. Afterward the perpetrators confessed that they were instructed by the stray dog spies.

Lockerbie Suspects To Be Transferred to Egypt

NC2806141294 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 28 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is prepared to hand over to Egypt two men suspected in the Lockerbie bombing provided they are not tried in either the United States or Britain, Egyptian papers reported Tuesday [28 June].

Al-Qadhdhafi told journalists late Monday that he had agreed with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "to transfer the two suspects to Egypt" during meetings between the two leaders in Libya.

"Egypt would then be responsible for them and would guarantee to transfer them to the place fixed for their trial," al-Qadhdhafi said, stressing that any trial would have to be "elsewhere other than the United States and Great Britain."

The two men are accused of being behind the bombing of a Pan-Am Boeing which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Al-Qadhdhafi said an Arab League proposal for Scottish magistrates to try the men in the International Court of Justice in The Hague have been well received in the West.

But Washington and London have both rejected the idea, saying the United Nations had called for the men to be extradited for trial either in the United States or in Britain.

"It seems a solution has been found" and that the proposal "will be submitted as a resolution to the UN Security Council for adoption," al-Qadhdhafi said.

He said the proposal was backed by Egypt and the Organisation of African Unity as well as the Arab League.

UN sanctions have been imposed on Libya following its refusal to handover the men and those involved in the bombing of a French private plane over Niger in 1989 which killed 170 people.

Morocco

Yemeni Minister Arrives With Message From Salih

LD2606144794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, Yemeni minister of civil service and administrative reform, arrived in Morocco this morning carrying a message from the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious.

The Yemeni official spoke to the radio about this visit, and said:

[Begin al-'Arashi recording] I have come carrying a message from His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II.

As you know, Yemen is going through special circumstances, therefore it was necessary to brief his majesty on the development of the situation, particularly that the brother president attaches special interest to his majesty's point-of-view.

We also certainly start from the premise that the Kingdom of Morocco, king, government, and people, stand beside Yemen and its national unity and the unity of its Yemeni territory, therefore it is necessary to put them in the picture for more consultations over the consultations that are currently taking place at the level of the Arab and Yemeni arenas.

It is a good opportunity to know the view point and also clarify the stance directly. [end recording]

King Hassan Receives al-'Arashi

LD2706174794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II—God made him victorious—accompanied by Prince Sidi Mohamed, his royal highness the crown prince, received Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of civil service and administrative reforms and envoy of the Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his majesty the king, at the royal palace in Skherat this afternoon.

The audience was attended by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and His Majesty's adviser Abdelhadi Boutaleb.

Conference Opens on Local, Municipal Authorities

LD2906084494

[Editorial Report] Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic at 1341 GMT on 28 June broadcasts a 32-minute live relay of the opening session of the international local authorities conference in Rabat. which was attended by King Hassan II. The theme of the conference was the informing and training of elected local officials. The live relay begins at 1358 GMT with the opening of the conference by the secretary of the National Conference Preparation Committee and the conference is addressed by King Hassan, the interior minister of the Cote d'Ivoire, the secretary of the Arab cities' organization, and the mayor of Marseilles.

King Hassan affirms in his speech that he believes in the decentralization of management and that democracy starts at local level before becoming national. He emphasizes the role of the elected municipal officials and cadres and that of appointed officials such as governors, pointing out that they should work hand in hand for the good of local inhabitants. The king calls for following up the work and recommendations made in conferences like this one. He also underlines the positive role of nonpolitical local organizations in helping to bring about local welfare: members of such organizations can teach, enlighten, and travel abroad to encourage investment and tourism.

The king concludes his speech by stressing there must not be animosity between appointed and elected local officials. They should work together and cooperate when approaching ministries. The king spoke for 28 minutes and he then shakes hands with and chats to delegates.

Yemen

Al-Bid Reportedly Flees to 'an Arab Country'

JN2906052894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] In Sanaa, the Yemeni News Agency SABA' has announced that southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid has fled the city of al-Mukalla in the Hadhramaut Governorate and arrived in an Arab country for medical treatment in one of its hospital. This report, however, was not confirmed by any independent source.

Tehran Reports al-Bid Wounded

NC2906054194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] For the first time since the Yemeni battles started, representatives of the conflicting sides met in New York yesterday. AFP reports that the two sides could not set a date for a cease-fire. The talks, which were held in the presence of Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Yemeni affairs, were attended by 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen's planning and development minister, representing the northern forces, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, representing the southern forces.

The official Yemeni news agency has reported that 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who was living in al-Mukalla in east Aden, was wounded and has gone to an Arab country for treatment. The news agency has not revealed the name of the Arab country.

Another report citing the official Yemeni news agency states that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has accused the southerners of trying to internationalize the Yemeni war. Speaking with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the phone yesterday, he said the southerners are thus trying to achieve their expansionist objectives.

Northern, Southern Parties Hold First Talks in U.S.

JN2906055394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The two warring parties in Yemen have met in New York for the first time since the outbreak of the conflict. The northern party was represented by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani [minister of planning and development] and the southern party was represented by Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas [prime minister of the government declared in south Yemen]. The meeting was attended by the UN envoy to Yemen, Lakhdar Brahimi, who called on them to set a date for cease-fire. Al-Iryani, however, did not have full authorization from Sanaa to make such a decision, as Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas said in his statements to reporters following the meeting.

The meeting was not in vain, because it brought closer the two sides' viewpoints on the formation of the committee which will supervise the cease-fire. REUTER cited Abu-Bakr al-'Attas as saying: We have almost reached an agreement on the Arab, African, and Asian countries which would participate in this committee. Al-Iryani suggested that both France and the United States participate in this committee. Both sides agreed—through al-Iryani and al- 'Attas—that the observers operate under the supervision of Lakhdar Brahimi with the assistance of a military attache. The obstacle, however, was represented in the southern party's insistence that the observers operate under the UN flag. [passage omitted]

New Territorial Gains Reported by Northern Troops

JN2806201094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 28 Jun (INA)—The forces of the legitimate Yemeni Government have seized control of significant areas in the northern part of Jabal Hadid, the most heavily-fortified stronghold of the separatists in Aden, which overlooks the city of al-Ma'ashiq, in which the house of archseparatist 'Ali Salim al-Bid is located.

An IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sanaa today quoted reports and military sources in Aden as saying that the forces of the legitimate Yemeni Government have managed to completely control the area of Khawr Maksar on the eastern side of greater Aden, and impose their control in the northern and southern parts of Khawr Maksar. These forces also controlled Aden airport.

The military reports originating in Aden added that the forces of the legitimate Yemeni Government also controlled the bridge that links the areas of al-Sha'b, al-Mansurah, and al-Shaykh 'Uthman in 'Adan al-Sughra with greater Aden, and reinforced their presence in the courtyard adjacent to Aden International Hotel in downtown Aden.

The reports went on to say that 250 separatists, along with their weapons, surrendered to the legitimacy forces after their fortified positions inside the city of Aden had fallen.

The separatists today acknowledged that the coastal Port of al-Mukalla, in which archseparatist 'Ali Salim al-Bid is holding out, had come under intense shelling.

Observers in Sanaa expect the al-Mukalla Port to have been neutralized by the artillery of the forces of the legitimate Yemeni Government to prevent the arrival of the supplies being shipped to the separatists via this port by some Gulf regimes.

The forces of the legitimate Yemeni Government seized control of 'Adan al-Sughra at midnight on Sunday [26 June].

Northern Troops Said Poised To Capture Water Plant

NC2806120194 Paris AFP in English 1122 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 28 (AFP)—Northern troops aided by a blaze of artillery fire smashed through another defense line around Aden and were poised Tuesday [28 June] to capture the key southern city's water plant, an AFP correspondent reported.

Northern forces since late Monday were seen to have advanced five kilometers (three miles) south to the edge of Bi'r Nasir, the site of the water plant which southern officers said has already been destroyed.

The advance to Bi'r Nasir, 15 kilometers north of here, followed the north's entry Saturday into Aden's western suburbs where it gained control of the city's power station and cut the road to the oil refinery.

A southern officer told AFP that 1,000 shells were fired during the advance.

Hospital officials said that one civilian was killed and 18 wounded overnight in shelling and rocketing of the northern suburbs and that three children died of dehydration.

The city has been totally without running water since Sunday after a few days of availability due to partial repairs to the water plant which was first hit at the start of the month.

Southern forces dug trenches and built sand barriers at the approaches to the city, withdrew artillery to the suburbs and the city center, and deployed Soviet-built surface-to-air missiles around the city.

Several rockets were fired at the city's television station but daily programing had not started and it was not clear if it had been damaged.

Aden Radio has been off the air since northern forces entered the western suburbs on Saturday and residents were glued to foreign stations.

The breakaway southern leadership meanwhile urged the international community to stop talking and come to Aden's rescue, implicitly criticizing the slowness of UN efforts to end the fighting in Yemen.

Five ceasefires have collapsed since the United Nations Security Council on June 1 adopted a resolution calling for an immediate truce and sending a special envoy on a 10-day mission earlier this month to set it up.

Each side accused the other of firing the first shot.

The United Nations was meanwhile considering another draft resolution.

"The civilized world is not reacting and is holding only consultations while the bloodthirsty Sanaa regime scorns UN resolutions, pursues its bombardment of Aden and its repression of the (south) Yemeni people," the leadership said.

In a statement carried by the official news media here, it said southerners were determined to "defend their land and their honor and to resist the occupation."

It issued an "appeal to the international community to stand by the people and save the city of Aden."

The statement denounced "Sanaa's determination to demolish the homes of Adenites and deprive them of water," accusing the northerners of taking as hostage women and children over six years old.

"Who would agree to union with such a regime," the leadership asked.

Southern Yemen declared a separate state on May 21 two weeks after war broke out between the former Marxist South Yemen and tribal North Yemen, which had formed a fragile four-year union.

Northern forces are led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and southern troops by his southern rival and former vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Northern Forces Reportedly Using French-Made Tanks

PM2806130094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Amir Taheri, Lutfi Shatarah, Khalil Matar, 'Abd-al-Qawiyy al-Shami, and Naji al-Harazi: "French-Made Tank Appears in Attack on Aden"]

[Excerpt] London, New York, Aden, Sanaa, Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab and international diplomatic endeavors were stepped up yesterday to secure a peace formula in Aden amid the escalating fighting in which the northern leadership in Sanaa is trying to storm Aden or seize the oil refinery or other vital installations there.

Eyewitnesses have said that three northern aircraft bombarded the oil refinery in Aden yesterday, causing damage to two pipelines.

In a significant development, southern military sources have stressed the northern forces' use of modern French-made tanks which were not among the Yemeni Army's armament after unification.

The sources pointed out that the tanks are part of the military aid provided recently to Sanaa by two Arab states with financing from a non-Arab Islamic state that has broadened and reinforced its relations with the Sanaa regime, especially since the Yemeni war broke out.

Northern forces intensified their bombardment of the positions near Aden airport, damaging part of Aden Hotel, the Badr Camp, and the al-Nasr Free Trade company. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Supplying Helicopters to Southern Forces

JN2906082394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Jun (INA)—Competent Yemeni authorities have seized three MS-17 military cargo helicopters supplied by the rulers of Kuwait to the separatists in southern Yemen. Yemeni political sources told INA's correspondent in Sanaa that the three helicopters were brought under control recently upon landing at one of the airports in Shabwah Governorate, north of Aden.

The sources said the three helicopters were commanded by Yemeni pilots who had recently fled the control of the secessionists, along with their families, to seek refuge with the forces of legitimacy.

Diplomatic sources in Sanaa said the Kuwaiti helicopter deal is one of the arms supply deals between the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes and the secessionists in Yemen.

20 Killed, Injured in 28 Jun Rocket Attacks on Aden

LD2806180094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1721 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, 28 Jun (KUNA)—Northern forces this evening fired five rockets at the al-Mu'alla, al-Tawahi, and Khor Maksar areas of Aden.

A southern military source told KUNA that more than 20 people were killed or wounded.

The source confirmed that the northern forces which have come close to Aden today are now launching artillery and rocket attacks on residential areas.

The battlefronts near the Aden refinery have witnessed fierce battles today and the KUNA correspondent, who was at the scene of the fighting, saw the southern forces advancing to the positions occupied by northern forces the day before yesterday.

The correspondent said that life is calm in Little Aden, where the southern forces have control over the oil refinery, and that the movement of traffic in the town to Aden is normal, contrary to news agency reports that northern forces had occupied the town of Little Aden.

A southern military communique said today that southern forces had destroyed 10 northern tanks which tried to approach the defense lines north of Aden.

The communique stressed that the town is "well fortified despite the continued shelling of residential areas."

Northern Forces Launch 'Intensive Attack' 29 Jun

LD2906103794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1009 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, 29 Jun—A military communique issued by the forces of the Democratic Yemeni government that has been declared in the southern part of Yemen said that Sanaa's forces have launched an intensive attack this morning on Aden from the north and the west. The communique added that battles are continuing between the attacking northern forces and the southern forces defending Aden.

The communique indicated that rockets and missiles being fired at random by the northern forces have hit residential areas and led to more civilians being killed and wounded. The communique did not give the number of those killed and wounded as a result of the resumption of fighting today because final statistics are not available. [passage omitted]

Fire Set to South's Only Refinery

NC2906104394 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, Yemen, June 29 (AFP)—Attacking northern Yemeni warplanes set fire to the south's only oil refinery on Wednesday [29 June] as an air and artillery bombardment killed eight civilians and wounded 41 here, officials said.

A black cloud drifted over Aden from the burning refinery 18 kilometers (11 miles) to the west. Journalists could not reach it because the road has been cut by fighting, but could see the fire from here.

A southern military spokesman said the refinery was attacked by two northern warplanes, while hospital officials said eight civilians were killed and 41 wounded in air raids and shelling of northern suburbs and other districts.

Buildings trembled from the pounding of artillery fire.

Oil storage tanks at the refinery were set ablaze three weeks ago after a northern raid, officials here said.

Northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have been trying to capture the refinery since they entered the western suburbs for the first time on Saturday, cutting off the road to the refinery.

Northern troops were also in control of Bir Nasr', 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Aden, where the city's only water pumping station is sited.

Aden residents have suffered severe water and gasoline shortages since the north's advance into the city's suburbs. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Says Raids Hit Ministry

NC2906112194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—[passage omitted] A military source in Aden reports that grinding battles are now raging between northern and southern forces on the outskirts of Aden.

In a statement faxed to MENA from Aden today, the source said the northern forces are trying to advance toward Aden using all types of weapons, including aircraft. He added that the northern forces launched air raids on several vital economic installations.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1041 GMT on 29 June adds the following: "Anti-aircraft guns shot down three northern warplanes raiding the refinery and other targets, a southern military spokesman said.

["'The body of one of the pilots was found completely burned,'" he added.

["Besides setting the refinery ablaze, the northern air raids destroyed the south's foreign ministry in Madinat al-Sha'b, 10 kilometers to the west of the city center, the spokesman said.]

Salih Tells al-Qadhdhafi North Accepts Cease-Fire

LD2806123294 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in which the latter explained to him the situation in Yemen and informed him of his acceptance of the cease-fire and negotiations with the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP].

Salih Rejects 'Secessionist' Resolutions

JN2906064894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at an Arab Committee for the Defense of Yemeni Unity rally in Sanaa on 28 June—recorded]

[Text] Brother attendees: In your name and on behalf of our great Yemeni people, the people of September and October, we extend our greetings, thanks, and appreciation to the Arab Committee for the Defense of Yemeni Unity.

From this place, we extend our thanks and great appreciation for the Arab people everywhere, who are siding with our Yemeni people in this grave ordeal that erupted on 4 May, led by the traitor, agent and renegade 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

O dear brothers, O great Yemeni people, O sons of Saba' and Himyar: Just as you held your ground, defended and championed your will on 26 September and 14 October, you will champion the justice and dignity of 22 May 1990. [applause]

O brothers and sisters, O sons of our Yemeni people everywhere: In your name, we extend our great appreciation to the masses of our Arab nation everywhere in the east and the Maghreb of the Arab nation, the Gulf, and the Horn of Africa, who are siding with you in defense of your unity.

You are not only fighting the separatist clique on the battlefield. You know who has conspired against your Yemeni unity. [applause]

We are fighting this clique, which we can describe as traitorous. Today, they are loitering at the hotel doors to express their loyalty to the regimes that pay them filthy money and to receive the price of unity and the price of the pure blood being shed. They are rushing to the doors of hotels, offices, and embassies abroad. History will not forgive these agent, renegade traitors. They will not be heroes in making unity or heroes in achieving victory. History records only the names of people who make great achievements. [applause]

Successive resolutions are being issued by the Security Council. In addition, some regimes and brothers in the Arab world, as well as some friends are shedding crocodile tears over Yemeni blood. We tell them from this place, the Hall of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the great Arab leader [applause]: Do not shed crocodile tears, but stop harming our people. [applause] Stop harming our people and interfering in the internal affairs of the homeland of September and October. The pure blood being shed today is shed to entrench Yemeni unity. [applause]

We greet each woman who gave birth to a struggler to defend Yemeni unity. Our people today are rushing to embrace (?death) and are acting out of an absolutely free will to defend unity. The blood being shed today in Dar Sa'd, al-Shaykh 'Uthman, al-Mansurah, the city of al-Sha'b, and (?Mandar) in Aden, will not be for secession or to install the secessionist in Aden as rulers. This pure blood is being shed to preserve unity and destroy this separatist, rebellious clique.

No matter what successive resolutions are issued, we will never accept the implementation of a secessionist resolution. [applause] No matter what successive resolutions are issued—to install the traitor al-Bid; the treasonous al-Jifri; al-'Attas, who is loitering at the doors of intelligence services; and the third traitor who is sentenced to death, al-Asnaj—we will never ever accept their installation under any circumstances.

Dear brothers, we welcome the Security Council resolutions that call for a cease-fire. We have said time and time again that we are willing to cooperate with Security Council resolutions to effect a cease-fire and start dialogue with the oppressed elements for the sake of unity and democracy in Yemen. [applause]

We are willing to respond to, and cooperate with, these resolutions that call for a cease-fire, in spite of the strenuous efforts and hardship that some brothers have had to endure to quickly bring about such resolutions. We highly appreciate their interest in Yemen. We had hoped that the greatest service they would do to Yemen would be to stop harming Yemen. [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters: We invite the local, party and foreign press in our country to head for the battlefield to ascertain that the cease-fire, which we announced six times, has been violated and that the traitors, secessionists, outlaws who departed from legitimacy do not want a cease-fire. We knew beforehand what they seek to achieve by violating the cease-fire. They seek to bring in international troops to observe the situation in Yemen. The [UN] Charter and [international] law do not allow any observation or international troops without the approval of all parties. So no matter how quickly these resolutions are issued, there must be an approval by the parties in the Yemeni Republic. We are the major party, the Yemeni people, in the face of the rebels. It is not the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the Arab Ba'th Party, the Nasirist Party, or any other party in the Yemeni homeland, but it is the people, who are one party in the face of the forces of apostasy and secession.

Once again, we call on our brothers, beloved ones, and neighbors to stop harming us, to stop harming the Yemeni people. They must be certain that, just as we remained steadfast in the fighting and confrontation, with our limited potentials, in defense of the Yemeni revolution from 26 September 1962 until 1970, we are also ready once again to defend the Yemeni Republic that was declared on 22 May 1990. [applause]

We do not fight on the front as an army, as parties, or organizations. The Yemeni people are spontaneously and freely moving to the front to defend unity.

Some are shedding crocodile tears over brave Aden, the second capital, fearing it will be destroyed or hit by the machine guns or the artillery shells of the forces of legitimacy. All these bullets and shells are fired by those who deviated from legitimacy. You know about the biased media covering this and distorting the facts. When the Republican Hospital area in Sanaa was hit by Scud missiles, the biased media said this destroyed area and the dead women and children were located in Aden. Such is the fairness of the friendly media of those who are concerned about the bloodshed in Yemen. The biased media want to fragment the Yemeni homeland. We say to them, from this place, that Yemen will not be fragmented, will not become two Yemens, and will not become four or even five Yemens. Yemen will remain one and united. [applause]

They should know that the 2 billion dollars they spent during the crisis will not bring them success. The military and political infrastructure [of the southerners] was completely destroyed in five weeks, thanks to the will of the Yemeni people. They want to destroy Yemen unity. Are they ready to pay another 2 billion? They should spend another 2 billion for construction, for sisterly Sudan, for Somalia, and for all the Arab homeland. They should leave Yemen alone. Yemen will continue to exist on the political and geographical map. [applause]

No force in the world can change the Yemeni people, remove them from the political map of the southern Arabian Peninsula, or move them to any other place. The Yemeni people will continue to exist on the political and geographical map.

If some regimes are hostile to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is one Yemeni citizen. Why are they making the Yemeni people pay the price? I did not come to Yemen, to the homeland, on the political decision of another country. I am a citizen of this land. [applause]

Why do we not respect people's freedom? Why do they lack respect for our will, as we respect them and respect neighborliness? Why do they not stop harming us and stop interfering in our internal affairs? The Yemeni people have not interfered in others' affairs.

Dear brothers: In your name, I greet your sons and beloved ones in the axes of military operations, asking God to grant them splendid victory. In your name, we thank the brothers and friends for their sincere support of Yemeni unity.

We hope the other friends will not change their stands, that they will maintain their stands as they were at the beginning. Some announced, at the beginning of the crisis, that they support unity and democracy. However, at the end of the war, they began to say something else. They began to speak about stopping bloodshed. We said: Have you received the price? We hope positions will not change. [applause]

We extend the hand of cooperation to all those who respect our will, principles, values, ideals, and faith. We extend the hand of cooperation to all those who respect the will of this nation. Those who think that Yemenis will bow down must realize that we bow only to God almighty. [applause] The Yemeni people will never bow to any force in the world. We fight for our dignity, for our existence, for our sovereignty, for our belief, and for living peacefully on our Yemeni land.

Our unity will not (?pose) any danger to any other country. It is the unity of the Yemeni people and a unity for the Arab nation, for the good and unionist Arabs.

Dear brothers: God willing, when the war stops the future will shine, based on national, modern scientific bases, on all political, social, cultural, and administrative levels. We will expand local government power in all Yemeni governorates. The sons of the governorates will elect their administrative leaders in their areas. [applause] Local governments will have full control over all their affairs, except for the sovereign resources of the

Republic of Yemen. Citizens will elect their local councils, governors, and commissioners throughout Yemen. [applause]

Dear brothers: We are passing through a crisis and a war. However, the war did not start on 4 May and the crisis did not start on 2 August. The crisis began when the secessionists took their government posts after 22 May 1990. Since then, the Yemeni people have been living a real crisis. The unity festival lasted only six months. After contacting their brothers and friends, who are known for their love and respect for Yemen, the crisis began and the Yemeni people began to suffer from this crisis.

Our greetings to you all and to the Arab Committee for the Defense of Yemeni Unity. Greetings to all professors, to all thinkers, and to all authors. Greetings to all of you in the name of our Yemeni people, wishing you success and victory.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Basindwah on Foreign Involvement in Crisis

BR2906130394 Paris LE FIGARO in French 29 Jun 94 p 4

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim by Claude Lorieux at the Yemeni Embassy in Paris; date not given: "'Aden Would Capitulate Without Foreign Aid'"—all place names as published]

[Text] "The Aden rebels would not last a day if they stopped using innocent people as human shields and if foreign aid in the form of arms and money dried up," Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah of the Republic of Yemen (capital: Sanaa) told LE FIGARO.

On a visit to Paris, where he was supposed to meet with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe yesterday, the Yemeni foreign minister made the following accusation: "The rebels are kept alive like a dying man on a life support system. The aid arrives in large quantities from Ukraine and other eastern European countries. The arms come from the black market. The Aden separatists do not buy them directly. Other people do it for them. I will not say who. I do not want to fall out with my neighbors. After flying over the province of al-Mahrah (which borders Oman and Saudi Arabia), the airplanes unload their hardware in Rayyan, near Mukalla (the eastern province of Hadramaout). Boats transport the arms and ammunition to Aden."

Although he has spent "half his life in South Yemen and the other half in North Yemen," Mr. Basindwah says he is "more attached to North Yemen," where he was often a minister before 1990, the year of unification. Loyal to the unitary line of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the minister gets irritated when mention is made of the establishment of a "democratic Yemen" (capital: Aden). "I would prefer," he said, "to dig my grave with my own hands."

He jumps up when asked if the embassy in Paris, where he met with LE FIGARO, is the embassy of North Yemen or South Yemen, which are once again separated: "It is the embassy of the Republic of Yemen. There is only one state in Yemen, the other one (the Aden one) is illegal, and no capital has recognized it. Yemen was unified by referendum and elected a government in 1993."

The minister, who visited London, the Hague, Bonn, and Copenhagen, and who is leaving Paris today for Moscow, stressed that the ministers with whom he met were generally "in favor of unity and democracy in Yemen."

Could one of the causes of the south's insurrection be the muscular conception which (northern) President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has of democracy? "President Salih's party won the elections held in April 1993," retorted Mr. Basindwah. "Nevertheless, we insisted that the country be run by a coalition government. We chose this formula so that the country could get used to democracy. We need time. Do not forget that we live in a region where democracy is not liked."

No matter how much the envoy from Sanaa emphasizes that the current crisis "is not a fight between North and South, but between the majority of Yemenis and the renegades," the survivors will have a lot of trouble picking up the pieces of the shattered unity. The authorities have solutions to propose: "Each government (province) could benefit from very broad autonomy, while naturally ruling out functions such as defense and diplomacy."

'KGB and Stasi'

This kind of development would apply both to the 12 governorships of the North and the six governorships of the South. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is in effect rejecting any compromise which would give the South different treatment than the North. This means there is no question of a federation. "This kind of solution can be applied to different peoples in a single state, but not to Yemenis. We are a single people in terms of race, religion, and language," Mr. Basindwah stressed.

The conciliatory—to say the least—attitude of the monarchies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) toward the separatist regime in Aden clearly embarrasses Sanaa, which was formerly the capital of a conservative North Yemen pampered by Saudi Arabia. The minister explained his discretion in this matter: "My role is to heal the wounds, not make them worse." He did acknowledge, however, that "some of our neighbors would like Yemen to explode. They do not want a strong, unified Yemen." This is an example of a "short-term vision, because a strong, unified Yemen would bring greater peace and stability to the region."

"The oil wealth of the southern part of Yemen could be one reason for the crisis," the Sanaa foreign minister felt. "I think that certain leaders in the Yemeni Socialist Party (comprised primarily of southerners) were unable to resist the temptations, and that they received money from everywhere. It must not be forgotten that some were paid by the KBG and the Stasi."

Weakening—not to mention crushing—the South is likely to strengthen conservatism in the North, which is more

tribal and more religious. Mr. Basindwah admits that "the existence of the Yemeni Socialist Party helped to maintain a balance between secular and traditionalist groups," before adding that "Muslim fundamentalism has not gained a lot of ground among the Yemeni people."

'Abd-al-Ghani Meets With U.S. Ambassador

JN2806143394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, received U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes in Sanna today. They reviewed the latest developments in Yemen, as well as the cease-fire initiatives that the political leadership has announced—initiatives that were repeatedly violated by the forces of apostasy and secession. They also exchanged views on several issues of common interest.

House Delegation Returns From U.S., France

JN2806174994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Al-Khadim al-Wajih, staff member of the House of Representatives Speakership, returned to Sanaa today after leading a House delegation to the United States and the Republic of France. During the visit, the delegation met with several U.S. official in Washington to explain what is taking place in Yemen and that the current confrontation is between the Yemeni people who support unity, legitimacy, and democracy on one hand and the rebels who are encroaching on law, the constitution, and legitimacy on the other. [words indistinct]

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother al-Khadim al-Wajih said that the Yemeni parliamentary delegation sensed an understanding by the U.S. and French sides of the House of Representative's position, as well as issues included in the messages that House of Representatives Speaker 'Abdallah Husayn al-Ahmar addressed to the U.S. Congress and the French National Assembly regarding current events in Yemen.

The parliamentary delegation also met with the Yemeni community in the cities of New York, Detroit, and Buffalo and explained to them what is taking place in our country, as well as the whole Yemeni people's adherence to unity, constitutional legitimacy, and democracy. The delegation sensed during these meetings the Yemeni community's support for our country's unity.

The parliamentary delegation also met with a number of ambassadors of fraternal and friendly countries to the United States, explained to them developments in the Republic of Yemen, and asked them to urge their countries to support Yemeni unity, which is a factor of security and stability for the whole region.

Al-Zindani Meets PRC, Russian, French Envoys

JN2906060794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zindani has received Li Liugen, the PRC ambassador to our country. Discussions dealt with relations between the two friendly countries, especially during the delicate circumstances through which Yemen is passing.

The brother Presidential Council member expressed Yemen's appreciation for all who support Yemeni unity and who are interested in the safety of Yemeni people, their independence, and the sovereignty on their land.

The Chinese ambassador emphasized that his country hails Yemeni unity because it represents an ambition of the Yemeni people. He expressed hope that the Yemeni people will live in security and peace under unity, and that Yemenis will be able to resolve their problems.

The brother Presidential Council member also received the Russian Ambassador in Sanaa (Yugoro Chikov) and reviewed bilateral relations and developments in our country. He said the war imposed on our people is an event within Yemeni borders. He stressed that the state is committed to the cease-fire, and welcomes solutions within the framework of the Republic of Yemen.

For his part, the Russian ambassador emphasized that Russia respects the Yemeni people's choice, and that it supported Resolution 924, which calls for cease-fire and dialogue.

Brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani also received (Pierre Allan Juvenei), the French charge d'affaires in Sanaa. Talks dealt with bilateral relations. Al-Zindani expressed the Republic of Yemen's appreciation for French support of Yemeni unity and democracy.

The French charge d'affaires emphasized the Government of France's continued support for Yemeni unity, and hoped that the war will end soon and dialogue will begin.

Mubarak Envoy Arrives in Sanaa With Message

NC2906070794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, 29 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Badr Hammam, the envoy of President Husni Mubarak, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit to Yemen of several days.

Arriving in Sanaa, Ambassador Hammam told MENA's correspondent that his visit to Yemen continues the joint efforts to contain the situation in Yemen and achieve peace, security, and stability for the Yemeni people.

He said he was sent by President Mubarak with a message to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to begin a new round of talks with President Salih and the political leaders. We hope, God willing, that we achieve our desire of peace and stability in Yemen, he said.

Ba'th Party Told To Exclude 'Malcontents' in Elections

PM2806112094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jun 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Amid Instructions To Dismiss 'al-Duris' Group, Iraqi Ba'th Party Fills Its Leading Vacancies Through Internal Elections, Excluding 'Malcontents'"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has ordered the ruling Ba'th Party's apparatus in Baghdad to conduct internal elections with a view to filling the party's leading vacancies resulting from last year's large-scale dismissals.

The elections have begun at the lower levels and will reach their peak in four weeks when the Ba'th Party holds an extraordinary conference to choose new leadership members, including four candidates to fill vacancies resulting from the dismissal from the regional command of Nuri Faysal Shahir, Fawzi Khalaf Zurayq, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri, and Khadr al-Duri.

Well-informed Iraqi sources have said that the instructions issued to the party's organization stipulate that 160 leading members in various cities—most of them from Mosul, al-Dur, and the al-Jubur tribe—are not to be elected, under a large-scale plan to purge the party apparatus of the malcontents about whom the security services linked directly to the Iraqi president have reservations.

The sources pointed to a prevalent tendency to dismiss more elements from the "al-Duris" group in preparation for handing over the party leadership to a number of the Iraqi president's relatives, including his brother, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim, and son, 'Udayy.

The last extraordinary conference the Ba'th party held was after the Gulf war. A number of party leaders were dismissed at that conference, among them former Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi.

Meanwhile the association for the defense of freedoms in Iraq has announced that Iraqi writer Jasim al-Rasif, head of the writers union in Mosul, has been arrested by the special security service and that his fate has been unknown since the beginning of the month.

The association said in a leaflet distributed from its office in Ankara that two journalists, namely Lutfi al-Khayyat and Ahmad Sabri, have been prevented from assuming their journalistic work since their release. They were detained for more than a month in the jails of the the Olympic Committee, of which the Iraqi president's son, 'Udayy, is in charge.

The association has repeated its demand for the release of 35 writers and journalists who have been detained since the Iraqi president's son assumed the chairmanship of the literary, journalistic, and cultural organizations in Iraq.

Ba'th Party Delegation Leaves for Jordan

JN2806114994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and his delegation today left for Amman on a visit of several days to Jordan at the invitation of Jordanian political forces and organizations.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur told an Iraqi News Agency correspondent that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation will hold meetings with political parties and forces in fraternal Jordan to activate the joint pan-Arab action in an effort to employ all means to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, which fulfilled all of its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions despite the injustice and unfairness it had to endure.

He said the serious departure from the biased U.S. stand by some UN Security Council permanent members and other members during the previous two reviews in March and May puts on the political parties and forces, the Arab nation's masses, and the virtuous people of the world a responsibility to continue the work to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq through party and parliamentary activities before the next UN Security Council review in July.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation includes comrades 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, head of the Foreign Relations Bureau, and Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, member of the Foreign Relations Bureau.

French Trade Mission Arrives in Baghdad on Visit

JN2706152694 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 27 (INA)—Head of the Arab-French Relations Development Association Ahmad Shakir arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting some days.

Mr. Shakir told INA the aim of his visit was to conduct talks with Iraqi officials dealing with spheres of cooperation between Iraq and France and ways of activating them.

He has added that during his stay he would get acquainted with the impact resulting from continuation of the blockade and suffering of the people of Iraq as a result of the shortages in food and medicines and other life necessaries.

He has stressed that the French people have begun to realize well the great suffering of the Iraqis due to using the sanctions imposed on the Iraqis. The delegation includes the chairman of the Iraqi-French Relations Committee at the French Senate and a number of businessmen.

Trade Minister Confers With Delegation

JN2806132794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has met with Ahmad Shakir, head of the society for promoting Arab-French relations, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the repercussions of the continued criminal, unfair economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people in violation of international and humanitarian laws and norms, as well as the Iraqi people's suffering due to the severe shortage of food and medications.

The French delegation expressed its appreciation for the construction achieved in Iraq, which was based on its own capabilities despite the blockade imposed on it. The delegation also said that it hoped the blockade will be lifted as soon as possible and that French-Iraqi relations will return to normal in order to serve the interests of both countries.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Official Pays Visit

Al-Sahhaf, Sanberk Meet

JN2406084194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf last night met Ozdem Sanberk, Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, and his delegation. They discussed matters related to emptying the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline and the role Turkey can play to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. They also discussed ways to bolster and improve bilateral ties for the benefit of the two friendly peoples and countries. The meeting, attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi, was conducted in an atmosphere of positive cooperation.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk arrived in Iraq leading a delegation on a visit of several days.

'Aziz, Sanberk Discuss Oil Pipeline

JN2406172294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz received here today Ozdem Sanberk, under secretary at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and his delegation.

They reviewed the progress made in draining the Iraqi oil pipeline. They also discussed ways to develop bilateral ties in the best interests of the two friendly peoples and neighboring states.

Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

Sanberk Notes 'Tangible Progress'

JN2506132894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—Ozdem Sanberk, Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, and his accompanying delegation, left Baghdad today after concluding a three-day visit to Iraq.

In a pre-departure statement to INA, Sanberk said he held talks with several Iraqi officials on draining the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline and Turkey's efforts in this context.

He added that tangible progress was made in his talks with Iraqi officials. He pointed out that Turkey will continue its consultations with the Security Council member states to settle the technical issues related to this aspect shortly.

Further on Sanberk's Remarks

JN2606115994 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA—Turkish Foreign Under Secretary Ozdem Sanberk voiced hope over an imminent opening of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline within a short period of time.

Interviewed by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today, the Turkish diplomat said that Turkey could profess no exact timing for the process but it looks forward for a near deadline for the opening of the pipeline which flows in the Turkish Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik.

The Turkish delegation had discussed with the Iraqi side the technical resolutions and other suspended subjects prior to the final judgment in this regard, he said.

Mr. Sanberk added that he had already conferred in New York and other European capitals on the future of the said pipeline.

Outcome of his moves has been transferred to Baghdad which has aired its reciprocal views of them.

Shortly, Sanberk would discuss the relevant resolutions once again in New York, the paper said.

Commenting on his country's attitude towards the events in northern Iraq, Mr. Sanberk said comeback of normal situation there would restore lasting stability and security for the area as well as for Turkey.

The Turkish diplomatic delegation had held over the past two days talks with Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Ministry officials.

Vice President Receives Turkish Party Delegation

JN2806170194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has asserted that the Iraqi people, who are being subjected to an unfair blockade imposed by the evil coalition forces led by the United States, have managed, through their heroic steadfastness under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, to break the blockade, preserve their strength, and take the reins of progress and development by virtue of their will.

During his reception of Muhammad Gulcegun, deputy chairman of the Turkish Social Democratic Populist Party and member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly [title as received], and his delegation, Ramadan added that the governments implementing the U.S. policy are imposing a blockade on their own peoples and subjecting them to suffering due to the deterioration in their economic situation as a result of the continued blockade on Iraq.

The vice president touched on Iraqi-Turkish relations and their development under hard circumstances throughout history. He asserted that promoting the relations between the two countries will contribute to improving the economic situation of both neighboring peoples and consolidate regional stability and security.

The Turkish party official pointed to the Turkish people's suffering due to the continued blockade on Iraq, as well as the activities carried out by the Turkish parties and organizations which demand the lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq. He also lauded the Iraqis' steadfastness and their defiance of the blockade. This proves the Iraqis' strength, adherence to their principles, and struggle for sovereignty and progress, he added.

Al-Sahhaf Receives Turkish Party Official

JN2906094094 Baghdad INA in English 0815 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 29, INA—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf received on Tuesday [28 June] deputy chairman of the Turkish Social Democratic Popular Party and MP Muhammed Gulcegun [title as received]. During the meeting, Mr al-Sahhaf affirmed the significance of promoting bilateral relations to serve the mutual interests.

The Turkish politician expressed his party's total support for Iraq with a view to lifting the embargo imposed on its people since August 1990, saying that his visit is also to get acquainted with the inhumane effects left by the embargo on the Iraqi people and to explain this image in the parliament and to the government. He confirmed sympathy of the Turkish people with Iraq who both enjoyed historical, religious and cultural relations and bonds.

Assembly Speaker, Turkish Official Confer

JN2906113894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with Muhammad Gulcegun, member of the Turkish parliament and deputy chairman of the Turkish Social Democratic Populist Party [title as heard], and his accompanying delegation.

The National Assembly speaker reviewed the impact of the unjust blockade against the Iraqi people and their suffering as a result of the severe shortage of food and medicine. He said Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the Security Council resolutions and that the continuation of the blockade blatantly violates international and humanitarian laws and norms.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih underscored the importance of developing Iraqi-Turkish relations. He said: We should provide the conditions that enhance cooperation between our two friendly countries in all fields in the interest of our two peoples.

Gulcegun expressed the Turkish party's solidarity with the Iraqi people in their fight against the blockade.

Paper Raps Turkey's 'Hammer Force' Decision

JN2406134494 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 94 p 1

[Editorial: "One Day the Hammer Will Fall on Certain Heads"]

[Text] The late former Turkish President Turgut Ozal had played the card of U.S. aggression against Iraq on the basis of lose one, win three. However, Turkey lost all four. In fact, it lost, and is still losing, a great deal.

Turkey lost its trade with Iraq through which it used to make $20 billion annually. It also lost 400,000 job opportunities which were available to workers in restaurants and gas filling stations as well as to the kids on the road to Zakho and the drivers and owners of 17,000 Turkish trucks which used to transport goods to Iraq. If we also count the family members of these workers, drivers, and truck owners we get a clear picture of the great damage that has hit that region.

But what is more important than all that and which cannot be compensated or evaluated in dollars, whether U.S. or Gulf dollars, is the serious threat which the Americans pose to Turkey's national security and territorial integrity which, as we know, has always been the main obsession of all governments in Turkey.

The Americans and the British have created a so-called "security zone" for Kurds in northern Iraq guarded by an Anglo-American force which they termed the "Hammer Force" to use as a tool which, they believe, would help them shake up the leadership of Saddam Husayn.

They and their agents in Saudi Arabia wagered that the situation in Iraq would not last for more than six months. But their wager failed miserably.

When the first six months passed, they extended the presence of this "hammer" another six months in the hope that their wishes and wagers would materialize. But they also failed. The renewal was repeated every six months and the Americans and British were disappointed six times.

Yesterday, the Turkish Parliament renewed the presence of this "hammer" for the seventh abortive time. The result of the voting in the Turkish Parliament on the seventh renewal was as follows:

- The deputies who voted for the renewal were 193.

- The deputies who voted against the renewal were 147.

- And, the deputies who were absent were 110.

Although the renewal decision obtained the "legal" majority, the large number of deputies who voted against the renewal and those who were absent—it was said that most of them had stayed away deliberately—indicates that the decision did not gain the "political" majority.

This means that the opposition to U.S. presence, which has become a real threat to Turkey's national security and territorial integrity, U.S. tampering with the question of the pipeline which carries Iraqi oil across Turkey, the pressure being brought to bear on Turkey concerning the Cyprus issue, the campaigns which are being waged in Europe and the United States against the violation of human rights in Turkey, and the lack of a U.S. desire to open the Zakho gateway before Turkish trucks; all these facts have for some time now aroused strong reactions among Turkish nationalist parties and figures which have reached the point of disgust at the continuous U.S. domination and pressure to influence Turkish national policy in order to satisfy the egos of worthless politicians in Washington.

But what is regrettable is that in his defense before the Turkish Parliament of the decision to renew the presence of the Hammer Force, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said: "Were it not for this force, the Turkish Army would not have been able to cross into northern Iraq from time to time to strike at elements of the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party-PKK.

He also said: "It is the prerogative of the Turkish Government to ask these forces to leave Turkey whenever it wants. That time will come when Baghdad abides by all the UN resolutions and enters into a direct dialogue with the Kurds, Turkmen, and other nationalities."

Cetin noted: "This subject will be discussed during a meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, and Syria in Damascus next month."

Here, we would like to remind the Turkish foreign minister of the following facts:

1. Coordination between the subversive organizations in northern Iraq and the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] in Turkey has actually increased with the presence of the "Hammer Force." Turkey has carried out several large scale air raids on PKK military bases in northern Iraq without avail.

2. The coordination which existed before the U.S. aggression between Iraq and Turkey on issues concerning border security was most effective and security conditions in both Turkey and Iraq were stable, calm, and satisfactory to both sides.

3. The so-called "security zone" has not been secure for a long time. In fact, we are not exaggerating when we say that this zone has witnessed, and continues to witness, under the ignorant U.S. hegemony the worst state of insecurity and instability similar to the one existing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially after Iran has also come in to secure a foothold for itself in the region—something which it would not have dared to do in the past—through the formation and training of Islamic movements operating under the direction of the Tehran ayatollahs.

4. Turkish-Iranian cooperation on this issue in particular is more beneficial to Iran than it is to Turkey under the existing insecure conditions in northern Iraq. By cooperating with Iran, avoiding cooperation with Iraq, and approving U.S. policy in the region, the Turkish side places all its cards before the Iranian side. Turkey will not gain anything from this cooperation other than more headaches. it is understood that for some time now Iran has been preparing and backing subversive movements which claim to be Islamic inside and outside Turkey and that the current situation in northern Iraq is so precarious that Iranian presence in it has become clear, thanks to the "security zone" policy which is supported by Turkey.

If the Turkish side is unaware of these facts or ignores them, this is a tragedy.

While it is correct from the legal viewpoint, as the Turkish foreign minister has said, that the Turkish Government has the prerogative to ask these forces to leave Turkey whenever it wants, the question is: Can Turkey do that politically?

Moreover, what is the relationship between the Hammer Force and Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions? Why does the Turkish foreign minister purposely mix the cards when he knows full well that the Hammer Force was a unilateral hostile action by the Americans and that there is no Security Council resolution authorizing them to take this action?

Cetin also knows full well that Iraq has implemented its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and that several states, including three major powers, are

demanding a partial or total lift of the blockade on Iraq since it has fulfilled its obligations.

Cetin also says that the time to ask these forces to leave will come when Baghdad enters into a direct dialogue with the Kurds, Turkmen, and other nationalities.

Although such talk constitutes an interference in Iraq's internal affairs and is therefore rejected, Cetin knows full well also that the Iraqi Government had entered into a deep and wide dialogue with the Kurds and reached an agreement with the Kurdish parties in September 1991. We were about to sign and announce this agreement were it not for the interference of the U.S. Administration which prevented the Kurds from signing it and kept them prisoners in the "U.S. protectorate."

Cetin should remember also that one of the problems of the Kurdish region is the refusal and inability of the Turkish side to hold a dialogue with 15 million Kurds in its own country all these past years.

Unfortunately, it seems that the Turkish side has been infected by U.S. double-standards. The day will come when the hammer will fall on the heads of the worthless politicians in Washington and London.

Contacts Toward Rabin-Husayn Meeting in 'High Gear'

TA2906085794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jun 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn may hold a public meeting at the White House next month.

Top-ranking political sources in Jerusalem said last night that contacts toward the meeting are in high gear. The intention is for Rabin and Husayn to hold their first public meeting in Washington, under the patronage of President Clinton. [passage omitted]

Talks To Start Mid-July

TA2806164894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Razi Barqay; place not given—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Before we touch upon the political issues, I would like to refer you to the German television documentary aired yesterday and ask you whether we know for certain that the Syrians are involved in Ron Arad's captivity or at least know about it.

[Peres] We issued official statements on the issue, and there is no need for me to repeat them.

[Barqay] If so, let us talk about political matters. When and where will the negotiations with Jordan start?

[Peres] They are scheduled to start in mid-July on the border.

[Barqay] On the Israeli-Jordanian border?

[Peres] Yes.

[Barqay] Will you install special trailers on the site?

[Peres] I do not know. These are technical negotiations, and it makes no difference whether they are held in trailers, houses, or tents.

[Barqay] At what level will the negotiations be held?

[Peres] I assume they will initially be held on the level of professionals.

[Barqay] By officials?

[Peres] Yes.

[Barqay] When will you at long last be able to meet face to face and openly with King Husayn?

[Peres] First of all, I met face to face and openly with the Jordanian crown prince.

[Barqay] It is not the same.

[Peres] Is it not? All right. [laughs] We will yet get to that high level.

[Barqay] Has the king promised to meet you and Yitzhaq Rabin in the foreseeable future?

[Peres] The king made a general announcement you all heard. He said the time will come when overt meetings are held, but he did not cite a date.

[Barqay] Sir, what is the main problem between us and Jordan?

[Peres] The main problem is Jordan. We have no problems with Jordan. In my opinion, the disputed issues can be settled in a reasonable manner and within a short period of time. If there were delays, these were initiated by Jordan and not by us.

[Barqay] I would like to remind you of what you said a few months ago, that the only thing missing was a pen.

[Peres] That is correct. Meanwhile, what I was referring to has been signed. You know, people have very short memories. We talked then about a declaration of principles between us and Jordan, and such a declaration has indeed been signed.

[Barqay] To quote the prime minister's remarks before the Knesset committee today, actually nothing is happening on the Syrian issue. Is that true?

[Peres] There has actually been no breakthrough so far. Our actions are based on the fundamental assumption that the Syrians are prepared to make peace, but this assumption has not yet been corroborated by any steps.

[Barqay] If you have received an official notice, could you tell us when Christopher will arrive here?

[Peres] Apparently in mid-July. We are very glad he is coming. We think he plays an important role and is a credible man. His arrival at this time within these parameters is very important.

[Barqay] Does his main mission lie on the Jerusalem-Damascus axis?

[Peres] Yes, but this will not be his only mission. I assume he will also deal with the Jordanian, Palestinian, and multilateral issues pertaining to the peace process from the U.S. point of view.

[Barqay] Where do the speculations about Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jerusalem stand?

[Peres] As far as I know, Yasir 'Arafat has at this point not asked to visit Jerusalem. You know, we have a talent to complicate our lives and I see no reason for it. He has not approached us with a request to visit Jerusalem, and I see no reason to give answers before questions are posed.

[Barqay] Nevertheless, when he asks, what will be your reply?

[Peres] I will give the necessary answer then.

[Barqay] Do you have a problem with such a visit?

[Peres] There is definitely a problem, but it is not a matter of principle. In principle, he may come to Jerusalem. However, there are many problems involved, such as the timing and security. This will not be a simple visit.

[Barqay] Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

Rabin on Talks With Jordan, Syria, Mideast Arms Race

TA2806153994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Israel has offered Jordan open meetings that will be held in Israel and Jordan alternatively, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He believes that the negotiations will begin in July. Speaking on the Syrian issue, the prime minister said that the secretary of state will arrive in the region in mid-July on a shuttle mission between Damascus and Jerusalem. The gaps with the Syrians have not been narrowed and, until the Syrians launch a serious dialogue with us, there will be no progress. Our correspondent at the Knesset Tamar Asalem reports:

[Begin recording] [Asalem] At present, there are serious doubts regarding Jordan's willingness to sign a separate peace agreement with us, Rabin said. At the same time, we have reached an understanding that the tripartite framework—the United States, Jordan, and Israel—should be employed on economic issues. The talks aim at creating a reality of dialogue in the region, even if a peace agreement is not signed and only economic and civilian agreements are attained. Rabin also disclosed that Israel had offered Jordan the holding of open meetings in Israel and Jordan alternatively. In the first stage, Jordan wants to find a spot in the 'Arava, near the disputed areas, and also demands that talks be held in air conditioned mobile homes. The prime minister believes that these negotiations will begin in July.

Regarding the Syrian issue, the prime minister said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will shuttle between Damascus and Jerusalem in mid-July. The United States will not make offers, and we are not interested in them doing so. The Americans may relay stands but, until the Syrians begin a more serious dialogue, there will be no progress.

Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu said that he believes the Syrians are growing weak in several spheres, including the military. Rabin responded to that by saying: Where did you hear this joke? Netanyahu showed the committee a document drafted by the Foreign Ministry's Political Planning Department regarding the negotiations with Syria.

[Netanyahu] The document, drafted by the Foreign Ministry's professional echelons, says: The negotiations with Syria should be conducted with a cool mind, no haste, and patience. The prime minister is doing the opposite: He is impatient, rushes forward, and is nervous. In fact, he seems to be panicking with real or imaginary fear of the next war.

[Asalem] The prime minister said that it seems to him that the party most concerned with his declaration regarding a possible war with Syria—is Syria. According to him, he does not remember such a vast amount of weapons, some of which are the most advanced, arriving in Syria since the end of 1993. Coming out of the committee room, Rabin added that this is part of the overall Middle East arms race.

[Rabin] All the Middle East countries are increasing their military power. Egypt, which lives in peace with us, is increasing and upgrading its military ability. So are Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Syria. The current reality is that there is an arms race in the Middle East. [end recording]

The prime minister also told the committee members that Israel has already established an authority for handling and rehabilitating Palestinians collaborators. He added that large amounts of money have been allocated for the authority, and former Major General Shlomo Gazit has been appointed to head it.

Supports IDF Buildup If No Peace Deal

TA2806160394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that where negotiations with Syria are concerned, Israel is demanding that no Israeli settlements be removed in the first stage of withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Rabin at the same time warned that if there is no peace agreement between Israel and Syria in the next two or three years, he will recommend injecting large sums of money into the Army to prepare for the possibility of war. From the Knesset, David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] On his way out of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin downplayed the Syrian arms buildup. [passage omitted]

But, according to a Knesset official inside the closed-door meeting, the premier sounded a totally different note there. Said Rabin: Since the end of last year, I cannot remember such a large quantity of arms reaching Syria, and of the most advanced type: hundreds of T-72 tanks; not an insignificant number of mobile artillery; and Rabin referred to Russian President Boris Yeltsin saying that Moscow will continue to supply spare military parts to Damascus—due to the Russian commitment—and that if the Syrians kept up to their payment schedule of paying off an $11 billion debt, the Russians would supply surface-to-surface SA-10 missiles as well.

Rabin also sounded a more ominous note than in last week's statement on a possible war with Syria in the coming years, if there is no peace agreement. Rabin told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee—following criticism from the opposition on the committee—that if there is no agreement in two to three years, I would recommend injecting huge amounts of money into the Israel Defense Forces to allow the IDF to prepare for the possibility of war.

The prime minister also justified the delay of the donor countries in sending money to the PLO to fund self-rule operations until they know how the moneies will be supervised and to where they will be going. But he hoped for progress when he meets PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Paris next week. [passage omitted]

Rabin said he had not invited 'Arafat to visit the Jerusalem holy shrines in his newspaper interviews last weekend, only that he was repeating the policy of previous Israeli Governments of freedom of access to all Muslims and Christians. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 28 June adds: "Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the government is looking into ways to expand the Jewish population in Jerusalem, but there are difficulties in locating land. The government, he said, is willing to confiscate land to this end, but it is awaiting a ruling by the High Court of Justice on several petitions regarding matters of land in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister was speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee."]

Olmert: 'Arafat Has Right To Visit 'in Principle'

TA2806165294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says he accepts that Yasir 'Arafat in principle has the right to visit Jerusalem, but he objects to such a visit because of 'Arafat's role and for fear that it might cause unnecessary friction between Jews and Arabs. The mayor of Jerusalem believes that 'Arafat would not be coming to pray, but to make declarations. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Olmert made these remarks in a special meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Mr. Rabin summoned the meeting following complaints about a lack of communication between him and the mayor. The two men agreed to go on meeting in the future to promote various issues, including the development of the city.

In a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier today, Rabin said that the government was looking for every possible way to expand the Jewish population of Jerusalem. However, Rabin noted, it is difficult to locate land and the government is awaiting the High Court of Justice ruling on the issue.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem Municipality sources told our correspondent that they have been holding legal deliberations with regard to illegally built houses in East Jerusalem and their possible demolition. The sources noted that two such houses in East Jerusalem, over which legal proceedings were completed, were demolished in the last two days.

Muncipality Seeks 'Jewish Contiguity'

TA2406160594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 94 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] The Jerusalem Municipality wants to create an line of Jewish contiguity between Wadi al-Jawz and Mount Scopus in the eastern part of town. Instructions in that spirit were transmitted to the town's Planning Department for plans to be prepared to be presented to the local planning and construction committee.

The town hall wants to advance these plans with the Construction and Housing Ministry, and the two have held discussions on the matter, but have not reached any practical conclusions.

In several months, the Border Police will evacuate its headquarters from the Shpaer Hotel located near this area. The hotel is currently being leased to the Border Police by Jewish financier Erwin Moscowitz, patron of 'Ateret Hakohanim Yeshiva. Moscowitz will probably operate a hotel at the site, which will become part of the Jewish area the municipality is planning.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir yesterday called on Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer to hold up the plan to build 72 housing units for Arabs. The ministry is about to present a plan to Jerusalem's Regional Council for Planning and Construction. Under the plan, a neighborhood and several public buildings will be build on the southern slopes of Mount Scopus.

Me'ir claims that the neighborhood is being planned on an important traffic axis—the road cutting across Mount Scopus—and its establishment could harm security. He also said that the site meant for an Arab neighborhood is located on the southern slopes of Mount Scopus and that the area is supposed to constitute a green belt encircling the hill. The deputy mayor also claims that a cemetery dating from biblical times is situated there.

The Jerusalem Municipality made it clear yesterday that despite Waqf protests, preparatory work will continue on the Avshalom sentinel on the Ophel path near Lions' Gate. The East Jerusalem Development Company, in cooperation with the municipality and the Tourism Ministry, is setting up lookouts at several sites in the area. A fence is being built and the road is being expanded as part of the work. The Waqf heads claim that the area belongs to them while the municipality says that

the plan has the approval of local and regional committees and that the area was legally appropriated.

Egypt's Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni yesterday cabled the Foreign Ministry on the issue, and the Waqf heads called on international bodies for assistance in preventing Israel from setting up a tourism project within the walls of the Old City.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said "it is inconceivable that Waqf officials should try to dictate to the Jerusalem Municipality not to pave a road in an area which has Jewish and historical value and which will serve the population and tourists.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 24 June in a page-2 article quotes Ofir Pines, Labors' coordinator of activities, in a letter to the state controller as saying that "there is increasing involvement by Jerusalem Municipality in activities opposed to the peace process." Pines notes that "the municipality assisted in the establishment of the settlers' protest outside the Prime Minister's Office, provided it with water and electricity, and are involved in organizing right-wing demonstrations."]

Minister Aloni Says Sha'th To Visit Jerusalem

TA2906053494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th will come to Jerusalem on 1 July and will watch a joint Palestinian-Israeli theater production. According to Minister Shulamit Aloni, the prime minister approved the visit.

At the same time, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said this morning that this is not about a theater performance; rather, the Sha'th visit is a political demonstration by the PLO, and he will have no part of it. Minister Aloni said that at this stage, Jerusalem is a religious issue and that there is nothing more wonderful than having the capital of the Jewish people open to all.

Olmert said he is pleased that in his meeting with the prime minister yesterday they did not deal with philosophy, because the issues at hand are political. The Jerusalem mayor said he is pleased with what he heard from the prime minister, but added that he gives Mr. Rabin and the government six months to prove their intentions in deeds, such as allocating resources for the city, expanding construction there, building roads, and developing the education system in both parts of the city. Aloni and Olmert spoke to Qol Yisra'el this morning.

Peres Proposes Membership in Partnership for Peace

TA2806110194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 94 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has proposed incorporating Israel into NATO's Partnership for Peace in Europe. The proposal, included in a report Peres presented to the Knesset on his ministry's activities, says that the expansion of Israel's diplomatic ties includes joining organizations in which it has not held membership to date.

Peres raised the proposal in a conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington about a month ago, when he proposed that Israel, Jordan, and Egypt join the Partnership for Peace and form a dialogue with NATO on joint security problems as a start toward future regional security cooperation. [passage omitted]

A different Peres proposal was to include Israel in the CSCE and to establish a dialogue on security in the Mediterranean basin and on economic cooperation. The Foreign Ministry began contacts with the CSCE secretariat in Vienna, and according to the report presented to the Knesset, the Israeli initiative was welcomed by the organization's secretary general.

Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday that the proposal for inclusion in European security organizations were brought up as a basis for the new security regime Israel is proposing be set up in the Middle East. Peres had proposed that it be based on the existing European mechanisms initially, with a separate regional framework being set up later.

According to the sources, the Foreign Ministry top echelons now prefer to immediately set up a regional framework to be called the "Middle East CSCE," which would have three "baskets": security, economic cooperation, and human relations.

Peres proposed that the multilateral talks be used as the basis for setting up the organization, which would serve as a nucleus for a new system of relations between Middle East countries in the era of peace.

Issue of al-Yarmuk Waters To Be Broached With Syria

JN2806185594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 28-29 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] A responsible source has revealed that the government will broach the issue of the joint waters of the al-Yarmuk River with Syria after reaching an agreement with Israel in the talks slated to be held in the region next month.

The source, which requested anonymity, added that Jordan feels that it is being done an injustice by the Syrian practices, particularly since Syria is monopolizing the use of the al-Yarmuk River tributaries by building dams on them. The source noted that Jordan was sympathetic with the Syrian position before the start of the peace process. But, now, Syria must seriously examine our grievances, the source said.

Haddadin: Israel Exceeding al-Yarmuk Water Share

JN2006130094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 20 Jun 94

[Text] Member of Jordan's delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations Mundhir Haddadin says since 1967 Israel has been using all the water in the River Jordan, to which the kingdom has natural rights. He said because Jordan was unable to organize the flow of the al-Yarmuk River by constructing dams, Israel increased both pumping the al-Yarmuk waters for storage in the Tiberias lake and utilizing them directly. Mr. Haddadin said much of the water used by Israel from the al-Yarmuk River is of Jordan's rights. He said Israel uses about 80 million cubic meters per annum well over its natural rights of the river, which do not exceed irrigation of 16,000 donums. He said considering these facts, Jordan was obliged to insist that water rights be included under item three of the joint agenda agreed upon with Israel on September 14, 1993. Mr. Haddadin said in order to negotiate the water issue, Jordan proposed a secondary agenda for detailed discussions, adding that this is what was agreed upon between both sides following four sessions of talks on June 7, 1994.

Committee Head on Border, Security With Israel

JN2806164694 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 25

[Article by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, head of the Jordanian side in the Security and Border Committee of the Jordanian-Israeli track, has asserted that a specialized team of technical experts will begin its work to demarcate the Jordanian-Israeli borders in the Wadi al-'Arabah area next July.

In an exclusive interview with AL-RA'Y, Dr. Tuqan added that the primary duty of that team, which was formed in accordance with Provision A of the subagenda approved on 7 June, is to reach an agreement to prepare the necessary maps, including any additional items, and to conduct joint surveys in order to demarcate the borders between Jordan and Israel, except the line separating the West Bank and the kingdom.

Dr. Tuqan asserted that discussion of Israel's pullout from the occupied Jordanian territories would begin immediately after the border maps were prepared. He also clarified that the subagenda is based on Provision B and Points 5 and 7 of the joint agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli track signed on 14 September.

He added: In light of Provision C of the joint agenda, stipulating that after reaching a solution acceptable to both sides regarding the elements of this agenda, this solution is expected to be crowned with a peace treaty. This means that the treaty will be concluded after the bilateral negotiations succeed.

He pointed out that the solution will cover the international border, as stated in Provision 5 of Chapter B of the joint agenda, stipulating a settlement of the issue of territories, the establishment of agreed-on marks on the international border between Jordan and Israel by using the mandate's border definition without encroaching on any of the territories that fell under the control of the Israeli military government in 1967, and the need for both sides to respect and abide by these international borders.

Dr. Tuqan said that this text clearly refers to the West Bank territory occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. We in Jordan do not recognize that Israel has anything to do with the line dividing Jordan and the occupied Palestinian territory. He said that Jordan will not agree that the Palestinian autonomous territory be subject to negotiations on Israeli-Jordanian international border.

Tuqan noted that the surveys and preparations undertaken by the special subcommittee might in some cases need foreign expertise because its work will be separated from and in parallel with the other points on the agenda. Its work will be connected with the other committees, particularly regarding the projects that will be discussed after the withdrawal has been completed and peace has been established.

Tuqan emphasized the need for international border demarcation before any future project is broached, adding that the proposed road connecting Jordan, Israel, and Egypt—al-'Aqabah, Taba, Elat—cannot be established without clear borders, crossing points, security and customs posts, and other basic things. These have to be documented and fixed on maps before being implemented on the ground.

Tuqan noted that the border subcommittee is a mechanism or an executive body to implement points in the fifth paragraph of Chapter B of the joint agenda. The committee can also draw up a timetable to implement

the necessary measures concerning everything agreed on between the two sides in terms of priority and importance.

Tuqan stressed that issues of borders and future projects in the peace era should be discussed and connections between them should be dealt with in detail in the upcoming Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. He also said that the drafting of the subagenda was basically based on primary points contained in the joint agenda; namely, realizing comprehensive, durable, and just peace and stressing respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states in the region.

Tuqan added: This leads us to international provisions; namely, that the border areas of any state must be clearly defined so that security arrangements can be based on international borders.

He said that Jordan will not approve of the idea of separating sovereignty from security because the two are inseparable and they are two of the primary elements of Jordanian national security.

Tuqan said: It is natural that this idea of security be extended to include negotiations on the reduction of armaments and regional security, thus forming a well-connected security chain.

It is worth mentioning that the areas of the occupied Jordanian territories are 380.084 square kilometers in the south and 0.83 square kilometers in the north.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Accords With Israel

JN2806124394 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 4

[Statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood "on the Jordanian-Jewish negotiations and their results"; date not given]

[Text] "Men said to them: A great army is gathering against you, and frightened them. But it only increased their faith. They said: For us God sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs. And they returned with grace and bounty from God. No harm ever touched them. For they followed the good pleasure of God, and God is the Lord of bounties unbounded. It is only the evil one that suggests to you the fear of his votaries. Be ye not afraid of them, but fear me, if ye have faith." [Koranic verse]

The Jordanian Government has announced, in an unjustified way, its intention to expedite the negotiations with the Zionist enemy, as well as its concern to reach preliminary agreements and detailed agendas in the fields of security, economy, and environment. These agreements were reached in record time and within a few days, as if things were prepared in advance.

The announcement of the agenda was accompanied by a new Jordanian negotiating platform which is governed by a new spirit and definitions which were expressed by some officials in a language that is not in harmony with the constants and red lines to which the state committed itself. This constituted real changes in the Jordanian negotiating policy, which will have a negative effect even on the extent of the Zionist "concessions!" over the territories and potentials usurped from Jordan which would be produced by these negotiations. These agreements, agendas, or statements recognize the Jewish enemy in terms of existence, state, legitimacy, and interests, and implicitly free this enemy from usurpation, occupation, and historical hostility. In addition, the enemy will be introduced to the regional states as if it is an Arab state.

The cooperation and coordination in the field of economy, water, security, and sovereignty in fact constitute normalization of relations and cooperation with the enemy in accordance with its demands and wishes. Such cooperation is unmatched by any cooperation between Jordan and any other Hebrew [as published] state, or even among the Arab countries themselves.

The expeditious signing of these agendas and the statements on separate solutions are an achievement of the enemy's strategy, which is based on Zionist penetration and reaching separate deals with each party, in order to make gains and become the strongest party which can apply pressure and impose whatever it wants on the Arab parties.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which announced its rejection of negotiations with the usurper Zionist enemy and of relinquishing any part of land and Arab and Islamic rights—in view of its understanding of history, the nature of conflict with the Zionists, and the situation of the nation and the region—reiterates its stand and announces its rejection of all steps, agreements, and agendas, which were announced, and reiterates the following:

—The contents of the detailed agendas on security, environment, and tourism are the inauguration of normalization with the Zionist enemy and the laying down of foundations for cooperation with the enemy before it even acknowledges Jordan's rights and their dimensions, not to mention restoring them. This is considered a consent to the Zionist view and an achievement of its famous slogan: Peace for peace.

This leads to wasting the nation's rights to the territories and holy places that the enemy has usurped to establish its entity. This also leads to forcing cooperation and normalization, which are impossible to rescind in case the Zionists refuse to recognize all our rights. All this is a departure from the basis of the negotiations and a risky gamble involving national rights with an enemy well versed in treachery and revoking charters and conventions.

—What is taking place reflects a state of anxiousness to approach the Zionist entity first in order to achieve some gains for fear that some may fall in the Zionist lap at the expense of some of Jordan's rights.

—What we fear most is for the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations to turn into a Jordanian Oslo accord, which would serve Zionist schemes and meet the Zionist objective of having separate deals, exactly as the Palestinian Oslo accord did.

—The declared justifications for this negotiatory acceleration do not give the government the right to take steps for which Jordan will pay in terms of its Arab relations, especially since Jordan is suffering from closed doors with most Arab neighbors. Is it reasonable for the government to run behind Zionist promises and deceptive plans and block its relations with certain Arabs? This is unreasonable, regardless of other's calculations and intentions, which are known by nobody but God.

—We believe that what is going on will lead to a separate solution. This is practically the opposite of the comprehensive solution that the government is talking about, regardless of its attempts to justify its acts.

We urge the regimes and peoples to face up to those challenges and to maintain the nation's rights, sovereignty, and wealth, which are not the property of a single generation, but of all generations.

We realize that the nation's current weakness is a transient state of affairs, which does not justify compliance and relinquishing rights. This weakness can be overcome by resolve, adequate management, patience, and further cohesion, freedom, and justice. Above all, we should hold fast to God's approach and be united under His laws and course.

In its long history, the nation has experienced times of greater weakness. It did not surrender, however, but instead maintained a high spirit of jihad and put up a valiant resistance, thus overcoming its weaknesses and emerging stronger, thanks to its faith in God and then to the efforts of its faithful sons.

We urge the people to reject all past and subsequent destructive political settlement agreements, not to comply with the enemy's will, and to resist those agreement's subsequent effects.

"Call to mind when ye were a small band, despised through the land, and afraid that men might despoil and kidnap you; but He provided a safe asylum for you, strengthened you with His aid, and gave you good things for sustenance: That ye might be grateful. O ye that believe! Betray not the trust of God and the Apostle, nor misappropriate knowingly things entrusted to you." [koranic verse]

God is great. God be praised.

Government, Parliament Relations Viewed

JN2106202494 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 4

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—Forty Jordanian House of Representatives members have decided to resort to a new method in opposing Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali's government in spite of the latter's attempt to overhaul his government by appointing 18 new ministers, 10 of whom are House members.

The new method is to directly address King Husayn as the head of the three branches of power and explain the legislative branch's stand without resorting to the option of a vote of confidence which will, undoubtedly, lead to a constitutional crisis in the country that may topple not only the government but the House as well.

Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, a former minister and a centrist deputy, told AL-WASAT: We will act more responsibly than the prime minister. He was referring to the relationship between the government and the House of Representatives, most of whose members feel that al-Majali has been ignoring the House since he formed his government in May 1993, and that he has not succeeded in changing his approach in spite of the three government reshuffles he has carried out.

Tasked by 40 House members, nine deputies, including Abu-al-Raghib, are drafting a letter, the first of its kind in the constitutional history of Jordan, that they will address to the Jordanian monarch.

Abu-al-Raghib described the letter as worthy both in form and content and revolves around three basic elements:

The first emphasizes that the deputies do not want either to hold another extraordinary session or submit a vote of no-confidence in the government; meaning that they do not seek to topple the government through parliament.

The second element stresses that the deputies are aware that the exacerbation of the crisis will have a negative impact not only on the domestic level but also on the level of Jordan's foreign relations and its tackling of various issues, including the peace process.

The third element outlines the deputies understanding of how institutional relationships should be and how this calls for normal relations between the executive and legislative branches with an emphasis that the deputies have grasped the requirements of the current stage which is governed by the peace negotiations on the one hand and the economic pressures on the other.

In the prime minister's third reshuffle, two out of the 18 new ministers drew attention for agreeing to join the government. The first is Dhuqan al-Hindawi, who has been appointed minister and deputy prime minister in many previous governments over the past 30 years, and who repeatedly refused to join al-Majali's government. The second is 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, who not only voted against the al-Majali government, but has been one of its most prominent opposers, and has mobilized many deputies against it.

Al-Hindawi and al-Rawabidah would not have accepted to join the government without the intervention of King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan to convince them of the importance of their participation to face the challenges of the current stage with a strong government.

The reshuffle was made in accordance with an idea that al-Majali be devoted to administer the negotiations, in which representation will not only be upgraded to the level of prime minister and foreign minister (al-Majali is foreign minister in addition to his post as prime minister) but will be shifted to the region as Prince Hasan announced.

According to Jordanian officials, the Gulf of Aqaba, where al- 'Aqabah and Ilat cities are situated close to each other, will be the arena of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on border demarcation and sovereignty that will start next July.

Al-Hindawi's condition for accepting to join the government was that the government should include House of Representatives members, which was something opposed by al-Majali when he formed the government, so his government did not enjoy much parliamentary support.

But the admission of 10 House of Representatives members into the government did not increase its supporters because of al-Majali method in selecting these members. Instead of consulting with the parliamentary blocs for their representatives to join the government, he chose 10 deputies through personal contacts. Furthermore, he tried without success to convince a Muslim Brotherhood deputy, who is 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ukur, to join the government.

One day after the government reshuffle was announced, the deputies were furious, including the deputies of the bloc led by the prime minister's brother Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali. Forty-one deputies, out of 80, met and announced their opposition to the method in which the government was reshuffled.

It was decided to prorogue the parliament's extraordinary session as of 16 June, hence the parliament went into its summer break. But the Jordanian Constitution allows the majority to call for another extraordinary session to discuss specific issues.

Hence, the deputies resorted to a new method in opposing the government which advocates the principle of "keeping both the wolf and the sheep alive" as said one of the nine deputies who are preparing the message to the king.

Therefore, al-Majali's government is finding itself once again facing opposition. While it may be true that the opposition does not seek to topple the government, it will keep it under close scrutiny and mobilize public opinion against it.

Hizballah Leader on Prisoner Exchange With Israel

NC2906103394 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] In an interview with the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim answered a question on prisoner exchange with the Israelis. He said that in the past an international organization, the United Nations, intervened and sent a personal envoy—Gian Domenico Pico—to discuss the issue of POW's between the Lebanese and Israelis. He added: This effort stopped long ago and we consider that any neutral party acceptable to us, be it regional or international, is suitable to discuss the release of POW's held in Israel.

Qasim went on: We have said it before; we hold two prisoners and are ready to swap them with prisoners and detainees held in Israeli and South Lebanese Army jails but Israel is blocking this move. He noted that Mustafa al-Dirani's abduction has achieved nothing for Israel as regards airman Ron Arad.

Answering a question on Hizballah's view of the two indictments against [leader of the dissolved Lebanese Forces Party] Samir Ja'ja', he said: The measure was good and we call for strengthening the domestic arena to rally all resources in the face of Israel.

Assessing Hizballah's experiment in the Chamber of Deputies, he said parliament is a propaganda and political podium that contributes to supporting resistance and deals with problems in areas near the Israeli border.

The Hizballah deputy secretary general said the party has opened a dialogue with the Christians that is still in progress. He added that every Lebanese has the right to live in Lebanon and express his view quite freely. Should General Michel 'Awn, Raymond Iddih, or former President Amin al-Jumayyil decide to return to Lebanon, they would be returning to their homeland, he said.

King Husayn's Statements in U.S. Criticized

NC2806120894 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 18

[Article by Rajih al-Khuri]

[Excerpts] King Husayn has no need to provoke others; he needs to protect himself. The conditions for building bridges with Israel do not include burning the bridges with what remains of the Arabs, in other words with Syria and Lebanon.

The Jordanian king did not have to hang "hang" Arab linen from the roof of the White House roof, because this is one of Israel's jobs; it has never ceased to be so.

Based on what has been said about his sobriety, awareness, reverence, and seriousness, he should not have fallen into that unambiguous Israeli trap. Israel laid this trap for him, first through the words of Shim'on Peres, who asked him to stop linking his stance with the Syrians, bearing in mind the king's involvement in the peace process, and, second, through the tenacious questions he was asked by Jewish journalists or by journalists filled with Israeli ideas. These journalists meant to cast doubt on the sincerity of his recent peaceful approach, perhaps to prompt him to adopt the sudden stance he did adopt. [passage omitted]

No one knows the reason for this exciting royal emotion, which reached the point of asserting that Jordan's decision on peace with Israel was "an issue of sovereignty concerning Jordan itself, one with no connection or link with any move on any other track."

Obviously it is an issue concerning Jordan. But throughout the area from the Ocean to the Gulf not one protest was staged. And no statement of denunciation was issued except by some of the "pan-Arab utopians" in Beirut. [passage omitted]

Does Husayn's acquisition of sovereignty and recognition justify this kind of bitter reproach to the Syrians and Lebanese? Did the secret bills for obtaining sovereignty and recognition include slapping the faces of "the brothers" and receiving "flowers" from the enemies' hands? Have these bills set out a condition that Arabs be slapped as a prelude to hugging the Jews?

There is no justification for that stance adopted by the king in the form of a free and nervy storm in the face of Damascus and Beirut claiming that there was someone trying to take him out of the Israelis' lap or take them out of his lap. In the era of "confrontation" the king knew how to maintain the royal lines of communication with the enemy. But now in this time, which lacks minimal levels of "steadfastness," there is no one who thinks of preventing Amman from competing against Jericho to come under the banner of the "Israeli empire." [passage omitted]

Do the nervous royal revelations in Washington constitute a departure from a "deliberate plan" to perpetuate the spirit of division in the Arab ranks, even if one day they came under Israeli command?

The next peaceful "delivery" will be in Washington this fall when King Husayn will drink from the same glass from which Anwar al-Sadat and Yasir 'Arafat drank before him. In the interim the Jordanians will encounter a very hard process and negotiations that will rebuild every piece of their minds and concepts, not least because the "sovereignty" they have gained should be in line with Israeli conditions.

We say in advance: Spare us the dirty linen over the White House.

Rabin's 'Threats' Meant To Obstruct Christopher Mission

JN2906080394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 29 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rabin Is Besieging Christopher's Mission Anew," AL-BA'TH says: When the head of the Israeli Government sees that there is no use for peace, this means he still follows the policy of separate solutions and partial deals and still obstructs the mission of the U.S. diplomat who seeks to activate the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Rabin is trying to lay siege to Christopher's mission to make it fail, just like his other recent tours. Rabin may have found an acceptance of his conditions by some who are going to the talks through his separate deals. Syria, however, is determined to adhere to its constant, principled positions that reject any solution that does not restore Arab rights.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories is a primary condition for peace, stipulated by the peace initiative. Syria will continue to adhere to its constants and to its commitment to international legitimacy. It restates that it is not in a hurry and that the party obstructing the peace process will bear the consequences, sooner or later.

Under the headline "Rabin's Threats," TISHRIN says: The clearly threatening tone in Rabin's speech about opportunities for peace, Rabin's establishment of a timeframe for signing a peace agreement with Syria, and his statement that if this is not achieved, he will propose supplying the Israeli Army with weapons in preparation for the prospect of war— all these threats and statements include fallacies. They represent an obvious attempt to falsify facts, strike a blow at the peace process, and raise tension in the region.

The paper adds: Syria has dealt with the U.S. initiative and the question of peace very seriously. It has made concrete suggestions to make progress in the peace process.

The paper says Rabin's statements are an obvious attempt to thwart the mission of the U.S. secretary before it even starts. TISHRIN says Rabin's threats do not frighten Syria. Everybody knows there can be no peace in the region without Syria. All the fragile agreements that have been concluded are destined to fail utterly if Israel does not submit to the resolutions and principles of international legitimacy and the foundations of the Madrid conference by withdrawing from all the Golan and southern Lebanon and restoring Arab rights.

TISHRIN concludes: If the peace process is to collapse because of Israel's intransigence and evil intentions, then Israel alone will be to blame for its failure. The international community and the parties sponsoring the peace process should intervene to correct things and stand up to and deter Israel's belligerent threats.

Media Comment on Peace Stance, Commitment to Lebanon

No Weakening From Israeli 'Pressures'

JN2506075894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Penetration Does Not Make Peace," AL-THAWRAH comments on Israel's pressures which aim to weaken the Lebanese national will. AL-THAWRAH stresses that attempts to effect a Syrian-Lebanese disengagement are doomed to failure. Having undergone numerous tests, the strategic relations between Syria and Lebanon have emerged sound and safe, because they reflect vital national aspirations and interests.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Lebanon adheres to a just, comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. It will accept no peace without the full implementation of Resolution 425, as well as Resolutions 242 and 338. Lebanon is confident that its alliance and continued coordination and cooperation with Syria will thwart all Israeli attempts to weaken it. Syria and Lebanon have a common destiny. In its peace efforts and moves, Syria makes no distinction between the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. It insists on the implementation of Resolution 242 as much as it insists on the implementation of Resolution 425 on Lebanon. The paper says Lebanon knows well that in all of Syria's peace discussions, Resolution 425 has been an essential part of Syrian strategy.

Speaking about Israel's attempts and distorted concept of peace, AL-THAWRAH says that what Israel frequently attempts to convey through its officials is not the desired peace nor the one provided for in the UN Security Council resolutions. For peace to be viable, it must comprehensive. Withdrawal from every inch of the Golan and withdrawal from every inch of southern Lebanon is the basis and prerequisite of peace; without it, there can be none. Israel should understand that Syria and Lebanon are not after just any peace.

If Israel believes that its penetrations on other tracks will support it against the Arabs and that it can impose its terms, it is undoubtedly deluded. This is because Israel deeply knows that there is no peace without Syria, as everyone knows.

Separate Deals Rejected

JN2606081394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria, which made great efforts to promote the peace process, continues to adhere to its national and pan-Arab principles. It understands peace as meaning the restoration of both the land and rights and as being a

just and comprehensive peace that ensures strength and dignity and rejects capitulation, bargaining, and submission.

The paper adds: Syria also cooperates with all international efforts aimed to promote the peace process and achieve its objectives according to the bases approved by the international legitimacy and its resolutions. Syria rejects any attempt to derail the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria, which adheres to a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, will not yield to pressures or blackmail, and will not be dragged into the delusions of separate deals because Syria has always advocated pan-Arab causes. The paper notes that Syria has always warned and still warns against partial, separate deals.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, with the support of the masses, has become stronger in the national and pan-Arab arenas. Syria is today more self-confident than ever before while the masses are adhering to the national and pan-Arab principles on whose basis Syria joined the peace process. Syria even opened the way for this process and gave it momentum at several turning points.

Israel's Tactics in Lebanon Condemned

JN2706073994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "With The Events" column, AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's savage attacks against southern Lebanon. The paper says: Israel aims to promote despair among the Lebanese over the futility of the legitimate means pursued by Lebanon to end the Israeli occupation, and, consequently, push it to submit to the Israeli conditions.

The paper adds: Israel is used to applying such pressures every time it finds itself encircled by an international move to pay the dues of peace; that is, withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the laws of the world community. But every time it retreats in failure and disappointment because of the Lebanese national resistance.

AL-BA'TH notes that if Israel managed to deal separately with a certain Arab party, it will not be able to achieve what it wants with Lebanon, especially since Lebanon is fortified, both in its internal front and by its special brotherly ties with Syria which are based on coordination and cooperation in all fields.

In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses Israel's aggressive acts, which have become a daily and permanent practice in southern Lebanon. TISHRIN stresses that the real and natural response to the Israeli escalation is represented by a growth in the Lebanese national resistance and continuation of its struggle against occupation.

The paper says the rallying of all Lebanese people, with all their sects and constitutional, official, and popular institutions, around the Lebanese national resistance to support it and strengthen its legitimate role, is, undoubtedly, a positive phenomenon. This resistance, which defends Lebanon and the people, is based on a national and pan-Arab determination to confront Israeli arrogance with all courage and resolve to regain the usurped Lebanese territory in the South.

The paper notes that Israel's repeated provocative acts have made Lebanon a cohesive front against the Israeli attacks and against the policy of terrorism and bombardment.

The paper says: All signs indicate that Israel is facing a political defeat on the Lebanese front. It manifests this defeat through bombardment, continued aggression, and exacerbating the situation.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN stresses that Lebanon's cohesion and standing as a cohesive, united front behind the resistance and against the Israeli aggression are supported by all Arabs. Syria will support Lebanon and its just causes and defend its march toward peace and reconciliation. It will also continue to stick to its right to regain its territory, implement Resolution 425, and end the occupation of southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and the occupied Arab territories.

Support for Lebanese Treaty Stressed

JN2606095194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the importance of the coordination, cooperation, and fraternity treaty concluded between the two sisterly countries of Syria and Lebanon. It asserts that the treaty has strengthened many common features between the two fraternal countries, thus unifying their paths and objectives.

AL-BA'TH adds: Among these features is the need for a joint confrontation of the Israeli occupation and ambitions. Both countries have pledged to continue coordination and consultations in order to liberate southern Lebanon and the Golan. This has been obvious since the launching of the peace process. Both Syria and Lebanon proved that any attempt to single out any party was doomed to failure because the leadership and people in Syria and Lebanon are fully convinced that what harms ones side will also harm the other.

AL-BA'TH asserts that the executive measures of the coordination and cooperation treaty have created much popular satisfaction, especially after the recently announced measures to facilitate movement at the Syrian-Lebanese border. The paper says this step will undoubtedly consolidate the ties between the citizens of the one people in the two countries.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Said Ready To Hand Over Power

LD2906105594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan announced his readiness last night to hand over power to a transitional government. According to a report of the Central News Unit from Kabul, Rabbani announced that while attending the Herat meeting, to be held among various Afghan group leaders, he will hand over power to the person elected by this meeting.

Rabbani's term of office ended yesterday, but the Supreme Court of Afghanistan has demanded that Rabbani stay in power for another six months.

Provincial Delegates Hold Preparatory Meeting

LD2806184294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] The preparatory session of the provinces' delegates Shura was held today in Herat. The correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports from Herat that today's preparatory session was attended by esteemed General Mohammad Ismail Khan, general amir of the south-western zone and governor of Herat; esteemed Taj Mohammad Qaribaba, governor general of Ghazni Province; esteemed Mowlawi 'Abdol Latif Mansur, governor of Paktia Province; and delegates from the provinces.

In assessing the country's situation at this meeting, esteemed Mohammad Ismail Khan said: Our major responsibility is to eliminate the enemies of the Islamic revolution, firmness vis-a-vis the difficulties, and to convene the provinces' delegates Shura for the restoration of peace in the country. The formal sessions will soon be opened.

Kabul Fighting Continues; Dostam Jet Downed

LD2806153294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Today south and southeastern parts of Kabul were the scene of heavy clashes between the forces loyal to the president and supporters of Afghanistan's prime minister. At the same time, dozens of missiles were fired on various parts of Kabul.

General Dostam's fighter jets, by dropping bombs weighing several hundreds kg, also shook the capital of Afghanistan. These attacks caused considerable damage and left 13 people dead and wounded in the central part of Kabul.

Afghanistan's Defense Ministry reported that a fighter aircraft belonging to General Dostam was shot down. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Attacks Rebuffed

LD2806164794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia's attacks were aborted in Qala-e Ahmad Khan, and a large area was cleared up in Karta-e Naw [southeast of Kabul]. Reports received by the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] say that forces of the Islamic army were consolidating their positions in the course of the day, and they crushed two attacks by the Golboddin-Dostam militia in Qala-e Ahmad Khan. As a result a number of the militia were killed.

According to a report by BIA, calm has resumed in Kabul, and the refugees of the city are returning to their homes in the old Microrayon and Shah-Shahid. The report says that a large number of Kabul's refugees who had gone to Jalalabad six months ago are returning to their places. Over the past three days the Islamic army's conquests have removed militia's heavy weapons positions from the city. They can hardly cause trouble to the people, as a result. However, the conquests have put urgent tasks on the shoulders of the state. The reconstruction of the conquered areas, most of which have become ruins, the reactivation of the police security zones, and the construction of educational and health institution in those areas rest at the top of the list of programs.

The report adds that the danger has not completely been eliminated, but that the Golboddin-Dostam militia threaten residential areas through their stealthy attacks. According to reports, in a crowded area of the city 13 residents of Kabul were martyred as a result of three bombs dropped by a jet airplane. The raid took place at 0800 this morning. As a result, three shops were damaged.

According to an authentic source, strong words were exchanged two days ago between Golboddin and Dostam in a radio conversation, and militia's scandalous defeat in Kabul has been considered its real reason.

In the course of a face-to-face battle, six foreign citizens were killed and seven others have been captured. A BIA correspondent who had personally spoken to the prisoners reported to us that the prisoners were taken by mojahedin in the area of Kara-e Naw. Despite the fact that senior state authorities have spoken about the existence of foreign citizens, and the Islamic army reported their capture, this is the first time that reporters have been allowed to see the prisoners and to photograph them. The prisoners have given their names as follows: Naddem Shahzad, from Mianbagh in Punjab; Sayed Ahmad, from Punjab; Mohammad Aziz, from Sailkot in Punjab; Farhatnur, from Multan; Abed Saleem, from Karachi; Jawed Akhtar, from Peshawar; Bahram Khan, from Peshawar. Nadeem Shahzad says that he has lost six of his friends in the course of the battle whose bodies were left in the battlefield.

Battlefield Commanders Interviewed

LD2906090294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Interview with military commanders by unidentified radio/television correspondent at locations around Kabul on 28 June; passages in italics in Pashto—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Dear viewers of television and dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan; may the peace and blessing of God be upon you. I hope that you are in a good health and are being successful. As you can see, we are now in Seya Sang Neqleya [near Kabul]. Not only the members of the armed forces' various units, but mojahedin of the various provinces also took part in this victorious operation. The mojahedin of Kapisa also took active part in this operation. I will interview one of the most famous commanders of this province—commander Habib Afghan. May we draw your attention to this interview:

Esteemed commander, would you please tell me about the role of your mojahedin in the recent victories?

[Habib Afghan] *In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We—the mojahedin of Kapisa—have been taking part in the operation since the beginning of the revolution but most actively since the coup launched by the Dostam and Golboddin. Recently we took part in the operation carried out in Seya Sang. Here we seized six tanks [word indistinct] rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition in these depots. We seized an enormous amount of ammunition in other depots for example: in Kasa Borj and Tapa-e Nader Khan we seized a countless amount of ammunition. All the enemy's supplies were seized by the mojahedin. [passage indistinct] The enemy have lost their morale and we should not put our guns down until their final defeat. We must work hard for the victory of our jihad.*

[Correspondent] *Esteemed commander, please tell us where your forces are stationed, and how long will you continue your operation?*

[Habib Afghan] *My own forces are stationed in the Seya Sang region. This region was under the control of Dostam/Golboddin forces. We are not going to put down our guns while Dostam is in this land and Golboddin does not repent from his evil actions. We are not going to make any more concessions. We have given many concessions in the past. They fought sometimes in the name of Islam and sometimes under the pretext of militia. In every name they have been fighting against Muslims. Look at these houses yourself? Who were living in these houses—Muslims or non-Muslims? They have looted all these houses and set them on fire. We cannot put down our guns until we (?expose) all their evils. As long as our nation is on our side—Almighty God is with us—we are on the right side. They are not prepared to compromise; they are not prepared for peace; they are not prepared for Loya Jerga. [passage indistinct] They are foreign agents. I have captured three Pakistani men here—in Seya Sang—myself. They are now under arrest; if you want I will show them to you. If disputes are going on in our country, what are Pakistani men doing here? What are the Americans are doing here [as heard]? What are the Arabs doing here? We are Muslims and we are not infidels.* [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] As you can see, we are now in Tapa-e Naqleya Seya Sang. We want to interview a commander in this unit. Esteemed commander, please introduce yourself to the viewers of television and esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan.

[Safiollah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My name is Safiollah, commander of Battalion 40, Bagram Division.

[Correspondent] Please tell us about the duties you are going to accomplish after the operation?

[Safiollah] On 25 June, we received an order from the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Defense. Our mojahedin captured localities from Jada-e Maywand [in Kabul] to Chaman and up to Tapa-e Maranjan. And now we are here; as you can see, we are stationed in Tapa-e Seya Sang. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We are continuing our interview, as you can see we are now in Chaman. A number of our brethren of the first district are stationed in here. I am going to interview the esteemed commander of District 1 [as heard]. Esteemed commander, above all tell us something about the clearing up operation carried out by the army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan?

[Unidentified commander] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, [passage indistinct] the Islamic State attacked the area held by the Dostam-Golboddin militia. In stationing our forces in Chaman, our groups began to advance toward Seya Sang region. With the help of God these people were wiped out from Bala Hesar region and now we can safely advance toward Charasiab. [passage omitted]

Our brethren of the Islamic State are planning to advance toward Charasiab. This place must be cleared of enemies so that the poor and persecuted people of Kabul can be relieved from the fighting and difficulties. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Dear listeners, as you know the army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have been carrying out clearing up operations during the past two or three days in the direction of Tapa-e Maranjan, Bala Hesar, Pol-e Charkhi, and Arzan Qemat, and the units and companies of the Islamic State's Army achieved enormous gains. One of these units who took active part in this military operation and achieved enormous gain is Unit 622 or Regiment 622 of the national guard of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. We are now conducting an interview with esteemed Gol Hayder, the commander of Regiment 622 of the National Guard of the Islamic State of

Afghanistan. May we draw your attention to this interview. Esteemed commander, please give us information regarding the recent mopping up operation, and could you also tell us about the duties of your regiment, their location, and what have their gains been?

[Gol Hayder] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The enemy had a plan to attack our unit on 23 June at 0500 in the vicinity of Pol-e Mahmud Khan. We had advance information regarding this plan. Our units saw duty in various locations. The enemy intended to attack, but with the blessing of God, before they attacked we took the initiative. We attacked first Darwaza-ye Lahori and Dahan-e Jada. There the enemy could not resist even for one or two hours. The positions that they held for the last two years, we seized them the first day—places like Darwaza-e Lahori and Dahan-e Jada. Over the hill, there were other units who captured Bala Hesar. The next morning at 0600 we attacked Ghazi Stadium. The enemy could not resist even for five minutes. After five minutes, we entered Kabul Theater. Then, jointly with our brethren from Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan], we quickly seized Tapa-ye Maranjan from the enemy who put the Kabul citizens in pain and difficulties for the last two years, but now with the help and blessing of God were defeated, and they could not resist in these regions even for two hours. We have taken these places from them.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the enemy morale, in particular the militia morale in comparison to the early days of the fighting, when you launched a clearing up operation?

[Gol Hayder] God is with us. Hekmatyar did not seek refuge from the God but he sought refuge from Dostam. As you know, a few days ago he gave a warning to the people in Kabul of his large scale fighting and his intention to capture Kabul. When we took action we found that he is nothing. He sought refuge to Dostam whereas he did not resist even for five minutes; his forces will be nothing to us—with the help of God.

[Correspondent] Have you any information from the Pol-e Charkhi direction? Are the units of the Islamic army advancing in this direction?

[Gol Hayder] Earlier I was in Tapa-ye Maranjan; the area of Dehkhodaydad and the hill of Dehkhodaydad, this large area was cleared up on the first day. Now our mojahedin are advancing toward Arzanqimat and over the hill of Bagrami.

[Correspondent] What is the enemy doing? Are they resisting or fleeing?

[Gol Hayder] We see no resistance from the enemy. The fact that Dostam lost his two-year-long held position in a few minutes and could not resist, they could not resist even for three minutes in Dahan-e Jada, in Daramsal-e Kohna and in Shah-e Shahid held by Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan]. They could not resist, but have escaped.

[Correspondent] Thank you, esteemed commander. I wish you and all mojahed brethren success and victory.

UN To Consider Formulating Peace Plan

LD2706204994 Tehran IRNA in English 1946 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Islamabad, June 27, IRNA—Any new initiatve for restoring peace in wartorn Afghanistan should also take into account the suggestions of all those persons who are not related to the well-known Afghan groups.

This was stated by the United Nations secretary general's representative for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris in an exclusive interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in the Pakistani capital.

Without disclosing the contents of report of the U.N. special mission on Afghanistan led by former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mehmood Mestiri, he said one could have good ideas to formulate a peace plan out of this report. However, he said it was up to the U.N. secretary general to decide whether the world body should make a peace plan for Afghanistan or not.

Mousouris said a large segment of the Afghan nation has sought the help of the United Nations that range from demands for intervention to end foreign interference to the making of a peace plan and then its implementation.

Answering a question as to what he considered would happen in Afghanistan after July 28, the end of President Borhanoddin Rabbani's term in office, he said it is up to Afghans themselves to resolve their problems. However, he said, countries such as Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia should also be consulted in this regard as they brokered the Islamabad accord between Afghan groups.

Mousouris said complete ceasefire is a pre-requisite for sorting out political solution to the conflict. He also expressed his apprehensions that Herat City was bombed before it hosted a meeting of Afghan leaders to deliberate on the problem to figure out its solution. He said it seemed some persons are not interested to discuss any peace plan.

To a question as to what could be a permanent solution to the crisis, he said the Afghan youth do not have jobs in the wake of fighting and thus are forced to affiliate with warring factions to piece out their livehood.

He said international assistance for Afghanistan has also gone down because of instability. He said he could not propose any plan or solution to the crisis but the ideas of the "silent Afghan majority" are to be taken into consideration in any peace formula meant for restoring peace and stability in that war-ravaged country.

India

Prime Minister Departs on Visit to Russia

BK2906091294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister left New Delhi this afternoon for Moscow on a four-day official visit. Mr. Narasimha Rao was seen off at the Delhi airport by several union ministers, the three service chiefs, and senior officials, among others. Mr. Rao is heading a high-level delegation and will have wide-ranging talks with the Russian president, Mr. Yeltsin, and other leaders.

Our correspondent, Kajal Das, accompanying the prime minister, reports that bilateral trade which witnessed a slump in recent years will get a boost from this visit. Russia has already offered to set up joint ventures out of the Rupee-Ruble Repayment Fund. The high-level delegation accompanying Mr. Narasima Rao includes union ministers Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and Mr. Bhubanesh Chaturvedi, and defense and foreign secretaries.

Iran

President Marks Anniversary of 1981 Bombing

LD2806155194 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 28, (IRNA)—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday [28 June] praised Tir Seventh (June 28th) martyrs as "unique personalities and valuable assets of Islamic system" [punctuation as received]

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani made the remark in a meeting with families of the martyrs killed in a bomb explosion at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party. The bomb was planted by terrorist Mojahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) on June 28, 1981.

"You, survivors of 72 martyrs, should never feel that you have lost anything, rather you should follow the holy path of the martyrs in your thoughts and deeds and be loyal to them... This is victory in itself," president told the audience.

He touched on the important role the martyrs played in promoting Islamic revolution and sovereignty of Islamic Republic of Iran's system and referred to events in early years of the Islamic revolution and the efforts spent by deviant and destructive trends to defeat Iran's Islamic revolution.

He said such deviant political trends as nationalists, leftists and hypocrites in collaboration with foreign forces tried to prevent formation of a system based on Quranic principles and revolutionary Islam.

"Thank's God [as received] that they failed to do so in light of people's presence in the (political) scene and under the leadership of the father of Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeini," said the president.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani said the destruction of Islamic Republic Party headquarters and martyrdom of 72 top persons led by Ayatollah Dr. Mohammad Hossein Beheshti demolished enemies from inside and persuaded people and public opinion to further support officials of the system proceeding on the path of the late Imam Khomeini.

He said that hypocrites and enemies of Islamic revolution took their revenge on people, but God destined them to suffer profound regret for a long time and took back all things from them, made them hollow men and alienated them from revolution and the country.

President referred to hypocrites' terrorist operations in June 28, 1981 as an event similar to that of Mashhad on Ashura (June 20) and said such crimes unveiled real nature and savage behavior of the false proponents of democracy and human rights before the world and Iranian people's public opinion and brought them notoriety.

Rafsanjani wished Islamic revolution martyrs spiritual elevation and their bereaved families patience in following Imam Khomeini's sacred path.

Ministry Denies Holding Israeli Pilot

LD2906055594 Tehran IRNA in English 0548 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA—Iran's foreign Ministry Tuesday [28 June] categorically denied allegations made by the Zionist regime on the presence of an Israeli pilot in Iran and termed it as "sheer lie".

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Zionist regime's Air Force commander recently had claimed that Ron Arad, an Israeli pilot whose plane crashed in 1986 while bombarding south Lebanon, is in Iran.

An informed source at the Foreign Ministry in a contact with IRNA categorically rejected the allegations and stressed "the Zionists were following other objectives by repeating such baseless and unfounded claims."

Tajik Reconciliation Talks End in Tehran

LD2806154394 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 28, (IRNA)—The second round of inter-Tajik negotiations on national reconciliation concluded its work here Tuesday [28 June] with the involved parties emphasizing their commitment to the political dialogue as the only means of achieving national reconcilitaion.

A joint statement issued at the end of the talks indicated that the parties elaborating their viewpoints during the talks have agreed on the definition of the notion of the ceasefire and the cessation of hostile acts.

Consensus was reached on the temporary nature of the agreement (for the period of negotiations up to October 1, 1994) and the questions related to the establishment of a comprehensive control mechanism for the temporary ceasefire and cessation of hostile acts, the statement said.

The statement added, in spite of good will and flexibility displayed by both parties and the reciprocal compromise steps proposed, it was nevertheless not possible to reach a consensus on the agreement, however the text was practically agreed.

The Tajik Government delegation headed by minister of labor and employment, Zukhurov, insisted on the necessity of the ceasefire and cessation of other hostile acts immediately upon the signing of the agreement and undertook to implement the conditions of the opposition delegation within a peroid during which a ceasefire is in force.

Whereas the delegation of the Tajik opposition headed by Mr. O. Latifi in its turn insisted on the necessity of a simultaneous entry into force of the ceasefire agreement and the implementation of the governement conditions.

He also called for simultaneous release of persons detained, arrested and sentenced, dismissal of all criminal cases initiated in connection with politicial confrontation and the civil war, lifting of the ban on the activities of political parties and movements and also the renewal of activities of the banned mass media, it said.

The statement said the two parties realizing their responsibility for the fate of Tajik people declared their commitment to political talks as the only way for national reconciliation.

In this regard, it said, the involved parties agreed to hold the next round of talks in Islamabad, Pakistan and requested the special envoy to hold consultations in order to determine the precise date of the third round of negotiations.

The second round of negtotiations was being held in Tehran June 18-28 under the participation of the special envoy of the secretary general, R. Piriz Ballon and observers from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Iran and the Russian Federation. The first round of talks was held in Moscow from April 5 to 14 of this year.

The two parties also expressed their profound gratitude to the government of Iran for its hospitality, assistance and support provided in the organization and proceedings of the second round of negotiations, the statement said.

Iran Said To Play 'Key Role'

LD2806161894 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 28, (IRNA)—Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki here Tuesday [28 June] refuted claims by certain Western mass media that the peace talks on Tajikistan held in Tehran have failed, saying the West did not want Iran to play a pivotal role in the negotiations.

Maleki, a deputy for research and training, said that not only the Tehran talks have been a success but they have also indicated Iran's key role in tackling regional problems.

The West intends to play down any peace efforts being made in the absence of Western organizations, the deputy foreign minister reiterated.

Although the West wants the crisis in Tajikistan to be settled by Western countries, the success of the Tehran talks was such that even the especial envoy of the U.N. secretary general, R. Piriz Ballon confirmed it, he added.

According to Maleki, the bases for national reconciliation were laid in the second round of peace talks on Tajikistan held in Tehran from June 18-28.

Maleki said that the two parties involved in the peace talks agreed upon the definition of the notion of the ceasefire, the terms for ceasefire, the release of political prisoners, freedom of the press, public amnesty and renewal of activities of political parties.

Stressing the political dialogue as the only solution to the problems of Tajikistan, Maleki said that the Tajik Government was well aware that the development of that country was tied to achievement of a lasting peace.

Official: UAE's Claim to Islands 'Baseless'

LD2806175494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Following recent remarks by Shaykh Hamdan, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, which once again reiterated that country's baseless claims, the spokesman of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry has stressed Iran's sovereignty over the three Iranian islands [in the Gulf].

Mr Mohammadi said: Repeating such baseless issues, which undermine the process of consolidation of stability in the region, serves only the interests of foreigners and helps the Zionist regime spread its influence in the region.

He added: Expansion of ties and cooperation does not mean serving one-sided interests. Instead, such a process embraces the mutual interests of the two neighboring Muslim countries, and in the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expansion of ties requires that one should refrain from making territorial claims, and should instead pay respect to the issues of sovereignty and established frontiers.

Furthermore, he stressed: Instead of attention to propaganda issues, it is better for the UAE to accept the Islamic Republic of Iran's invitation to hold bilateral talks.

Papers Assails UAE's Stance

LD2906113094 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA—Two Persian dailies today commented on the recent claims by the United Arab Emirates on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and said that such claims had no impact other than straining bilateral ties.

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan [Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan] in a recent interview repeated the baseless claims over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tonbs.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an article said that the statements had no reasonable basis otherwise the UAE officials would not have refrained from holding direct talks with Iran. The paper said that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visited the UAE at the invitation of his counterpart last year to know about the UAE stance. But the UAE officials did not utter a word about the islands during Velayati's lengthy talks there. After Velayati's return to Tehran and contrary to the articles of the joint communique, the UAE officials resumed their claims over the islands.

Referring to the invitation extended to the UAE ruler Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to visit Tehran, the article said that his refusal to pay a visit to Tehran was an indication to the fact that the UAE is not following a documented claim but rather a propaganda ballyhoo which not only is not in the interest of the region but makes it apt for the Zionist influence.

Turning to Shaykh Hamdan's statement that the issue will be referred to international tribunals, the paper criticized that the UAE officials first called for direct talks but now have changed their view and stressed that they do not follow a steady policy.

"If we review history and the time when colonialism had not found its way to the region, we will find out that at that time not only the islands belonged to Iran but also no country under the name of the UAE existed in the region," JOMHURI said. It is generous of Tehran that it is not following the policy of changing the present borders among regional countries in an attempt to preserve the security and stability of the region, it concluded.

Another Persian daily, 'ABRAR' said on the same topic that Shaykh Hamdan talked about the international court of arbitration where the very existence of the UAE could be questioned—a sheikhdom a little older than two decades which is now raising territorial claims. The United Arab Emirates, comprising several sheikhdoms, was a British protectorate until 1971. Since then Britain brought to power one of the nomadic tribes and turned it to a sheikhdom. it covers not more than 830,000 sq. kms and its population including native Arabs and immigrants from Pakistan, India and other countries does not exceed 1,800,000.

The interview of Shaykh Hamdan, son of Shaykh Zayid, was published by all the media financed by Saudi Arabia and extensive propaganda was made on this claim.

Azerbaijan's Aliyev Begins Four-Day Visit

LD2906094594 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA—Azeri President Geydar Aliyev arrived here Wednesday [29 June] heading a ranking political, economic, social and cultural delegation. President Aliyev and his entourage were welcomed at international Mehrabad Airport by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The Azeri delegation will pay a four-day visit to Iran.

President Aliyev is being accompanied by ministers of foreign affairs, economy, national security, health, deputy prime minister, a number of presidential aides, head of the clerical bureaux of Caucasia, several parliamentarians, head of the Supreme Council and Nakhichevan's premier.

Presidents Preview Talks

LD2906104694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jun 94

[Excerpt] President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking political, economic, social, and cultural delegation. He was formally welcomed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

After arriving in Tehran Mr. Aliyev, in an interview with our correspondent, referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and our country's revolutionary people as the friends and sincere brothers of the Azerbaijan Republic. Referring to the two countries' common historical, national, and religious background, he said: We attach great importance to the IRI as an influential and powerful neighbor and we would like the two countries to expand ties in all fields. The president of Azerbaijan added that during his stay in our country he will hold talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other IRI officials on the most significant regional and international issues and the expansion of the two countries' relations.

On the axes of talks with Azerbaijan's president and the two countries' ties, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We are very close to Azerbaijan in every respect. Our people feel solidarity [yeganegi] in both countries. At present the level of our

ties is very good too. During my visit to Baku—frankly—among the authorities, with Mr. Aliyev himself, and among the people I felt as if they were like our own people. Fortunately many of the decisions we took during that visit are currently being implemented. Of course some of the important decisions require time for implementation. We have had some memoranda of understanding, which we will pursue during this visit.

To us the problem of military conflict in Caucasia is highly significant. One of the subjects of our talks, therefore, will be the same issues of Karabakh and the problems of Caucasia in general.

Among our important issues are cooperation in the Caspian Sea and greater utilization of the joint river of Aras. There are the issues of transit, trade and exchange visits by our people. Almost all the issues that the two countries are interested in and eager to discuss will be discussed during this visit. We hope that just like my trip to Baku, the visit of his excellency the president of Azerbaijan to Tehran will also be a great stride in the expansion of cooperation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Islamic Rights Commission To Be Formed

LD2806154294 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—A new commission called the 'Islamic Human Rights Commission' is to be established by the judiciary system to follow up issues related to the Islamic countries, said Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here Tuesday [28 June].

Speaking at the closing session of the nationwide seminar on 'Judiciary Week,' the Ayatollah noted that if faced with any case of violation of Islamic human rights inside or outside the country, the commission "will have the authority to use its capabilities to settle the problem."

Addressing the participants, Yazdi described as "acceptable" the body's performance in the past five years, adding that the judiciary system was looking after people's affairs very actively in the said period.

Further in his talks, the Ayatollah said that fewer cases were referred to the state Supreme Court in the past five years and added that some 33,279 inmates have been pardoned in the said period.

He said his term in office is going to be over, adding that he would be happy if the burden were to be shouldered by someone else.

Attorney General Rejects Alleged Rights Abuses

LD2806144594 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—No one has gone on trial for expressing his thoughts and ideas in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran's Attorney General Ayatollah Seyyed Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi reiterated here Tuesday [28 June].

Calling as fabricated the claims on human rights violation by certain international circles Musavi-Tabrizi declared that the most progressive types of human rights were present in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Addressing the concluding session of the nationwide seminar on judiciary week, Musavi-Tabrizi said that the Islamic system will not put aside due punishment as decreed by Islam for criminals.

Correction to Velayati Comments on MKO

LD2406142394

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Velayati Urges Action Against MKO," published in the 24 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 52:

Column two, first paragraph, first sentence make read: ...against the terrorist Munafiqeen Khalq [pejorative reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] outfit (MKO) which was behind the crime.

[New paragraph] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, whose official noted [as received] was handed to the OIC secretariat in Jeddah, said the terrorist MKO was... (making clear reference to "munafiqeen," rewording sentences to clear computer generated garble).

IRNA Correction to Postponed Baghdad Trip

LD2406144794

Tehran IRNA in English at 1415 GMT on 24 June transmits a service message substituting the following for the item headlined "Delegation Postpones Baghdad Trip," published in the 24 June Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 53:

...Tehran, June 24, IRNA—Foreign Ministry here today announced that a scheduled visit to Iraq by a high ranking delegation from Iranian Foreign Ministry has been postponed to protest the Iraqi support of the terrorist Mojahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO).

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that because of MKO bombing of the mausoleum of Imam Reza (as) [peace be upon him] in Mashhad on June 20th and to protest the Iraqi support for this group a visit of this Ministry's high ranking delegation which was to begin tomorrow has been suspended.

He also said that a Foreign Ministry high ranking official at the head of delegation was to make a visit to Baghdad on Saturday, June 25 in exchange for a recent visit paid by the Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd Faysal to Tehran. But because of June 20th bombing of the mausoleum the visit has been postponed "for an indefinite period," the spokesman said....

Pakistan

Bhutto Supports Kashmir Talks, Condemns Missile Tests

BK2606163794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said the Kashmir problem is the key for solution of all issues between Pakistan an India and urged New Delhi to enter into dialogue for its solution in accordance with internatinal law and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. She was presiding over a meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council in Islamabad today.

The prime minister referred to the serious situation in occupied Kashmir and assured Kashmiri brethren that the people's government will continue its moral, political, and diplomatic support for their just cause. She said under the UN Resolution, India is a party to the Kashmir dispute and it is that country's moral and international obligation to implement UN Resolution and end tension in the region so that the two countries could utilize their resources for the welfare of their people. She said it is in the interest of India to give the right of self-determination to Kashmiri people. She said India has increased its budget for defense by 20 percent and this shows its failure in Jammu and Kashmir despite massing six lakh army and paramilitary forces.

The prime minister referred to the testing of Prithvi missile by India and the reported deployment of these missiles along the Pakistani border. She said Pakistan has always adopted the path of self-restraint, while India went for missile, nuclear, and arms race. She said Pakistanis are a peace-loving nation and would not take steps which could lead to arms race. She condemned the Prithvi missile test by India and said by doing so India was trying to change the status quo in the region. She said if there is to be peace in the subcontinent it is essential that Indian Government should reveal its missile program.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan fought three wars with India because of its support for Kashmiris and conspiracies were hatched because of this support to divide Pakistan. She said those talking of (?adoption) of independent Kashmir do not know that Kashmiris and Pakistanis are one. She said this issue is alive because of the sacrifices of Kashmiris and Pakistan's support under [words indistinct] principle. She spoke of the massive killings of Kashmiris by Indian forces and torture in jails and urged the international community to take a serious notice of these human rights violations.

Foreign Minister Urges Afghans To Stop Fighting

LD2806131194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Pakistan has urged President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, and other leaders of Afghanistan to stop fighting and sit together to resolve their differences. The call was made by the foreign minister, Ali Sardar Asif Ahmad, while talking to newsmen in Islamabad today. He also called upon the Afghan leaders to accept any invitation to them by the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] to discuss a draft peace plan.

Meanwhile in the Afghan capital, Kabul, jet fighters of the forces opposed to President Borhanoddin Rabbani bombed the center of the city for the second day today, killing 12 people and injuring several others.